



Three medieval and early modern hoards from Pugritsa village, historical Võrumaa

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INTRODUCTION

Members of Search and Local History Club ‘Kamerad’ found a hoard of jewellery and coins on the 23rd of April 2016 from the village of Pugritsa in the Karula parish of historical Võrumaa. The finders informed the National Heritage Board, who entrusted recording and excavating of the hoard to me.

Some of the artefacts were retrieved already on the first day (Tvauri 2016a), the rest were dug out using an excavator (see below; Tvauri 2016b). Members of the club ‘Kamerad’ found two additional hoards from the fields of Pugritsa village at the time when the first hoard was being excavated. The hoards were named Pugritsa I, II, and III. The second and third hoard from Pugritsa village were also excavated.

At each find spot, the upper layers of soil were investigated using metal detectors and artefacts were collected. Then the ground was peeled layer by layer removing approximately 10 cm deep layers of soil at the width of the excavator bucket at a time. All the soil was again examined using metal detectors. The location of most finds was measured with handheld GPS Garmin Oregon 600. Conservator Andres Vindi cleaned and conserved the coins in the Laboratory of Archaeology of the University of Tartu.

PUGRITSA I HOARD

The find spot was located at a meliorated hayfield on the southern slope of a small hill (Fig. 1). There is a small body of water, probably a spring, a bit northwest from the investigated site. Approximately 50–100 m to the north and northeast from the area of the hoard, on the upper part of the hill fragments of burnt stones and darker soil indicated an occupation layer. The soil was brown and there were no fragments of burnt stones at the spot of the hoard find. The soil was removed layer by layer with an excavator to retrieve the entire hoard in the area

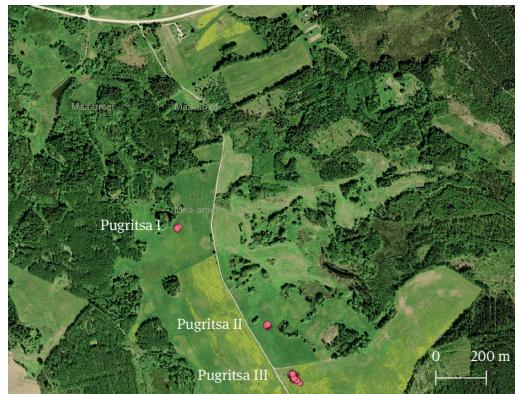


Fig. 1. Location of hoards in the territory of Pugritsa village.

Jn 1. Aardeleidude asukoht Pugritsa küla alal.
Orthophoto / Ortofoto: Estonian Land Board / Maa-amet



Fig. 2. Retrieving Pugritsa I hoard.
Jn 2. Pugritsa I aardeleiu kokku kogumine.
Photo / Foto: Martti Veldi



Fig. 3. Fragment of a coin pendant ornament from Pugritsa I hoard.
Jn 3. Müntidest ehte katke Pugritsa I aardest.
(TÜ 2604: 15, 16.)
Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari



Fig. 4. Bracteate pendant from Pugritsa I hoard.
Jn 4. Rinnaleht Pugritsa I aardest.
(TÜ 2604: 39.)
Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari



Fig. 5. Penannular brooch from Pugritsa I hoard.
Jn 5. Hoburaudsölg Pugritsa I aardest.
(TÜ 2604: 30.)
Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari

of approximately 7×8 metres (Fig. 2). The initial find spot of the first items lay in the centre of that research area. Ploughing had dispersed the entire hoard even though three bracteate pendants were situated next to each other in the ground. The original hiding place of the hoard was not identified and no implication of any container for the artefacts was detected.

Altogether 56 artefacts or fragments of artefacts were gathered (TÜ 2604). Some belonged to the hoard and some were stray finds. The latter were probably linked with the occupation layer nearby. As the ground was covered with hay, it was impossible to determine the precise character and boundaries of the occupation layer.

Pugritsa I hoard consisted mostly of coins that had riveted clasps made of sheet iron, all probably belonging to the same piece of jewellery. 32 of such coins or fragments of coins were obtained. Most of the coin pendants were discovered aloof in the ground, only two of them were clasped to each other (Fig. 3). Coin pendants with clasps attached by riveting spread until the 13th century and then again in the 16th century (Kiudsoo 2008, 113).

Additionally, the hoard contained 9 bracteate pendants made of sheet metal with a low silver content (Fig. 4). Bracteate pendants are numerous in the hoards from the 16th and 17th centuries in Estonia and northern Latvia. Bracteate pendants from Pugritsa I hoard represent the most common and widespread types. Two silver penannular brooches (Fig. 5) and a pin of one penannular brooch also form a part of the Pugritsa I hoard. Traces of iron oxide on the bracteate pendants and penannular brooches confirm that the coin pendants with iron clasps, brooches, and bracteate pendants were initially together in the ground. Iron oxide had even attached one coin pendant to a brooch pin (Fig. 5). Both penannular brooches have round flat terminals and a twisted hoop. The similarity

of those two brooches gives ground for the assumption that they were made by the same artisan. The brooch type is widespread in Estonian and Latvian hoards from the 15th to 17th centuries. A brassy rhomb-shaped pendant with a cross (Fig. 6) is presumably also from the hoard. A similar pendant has been found together with coin pendants before, in the Austre hoard (Kiudsoo 2008, fig. 7). Such artefacts have been discovered in the find contexts of the 15th and 16th centuries in Estonia and Latvia.

Tpq¹ of the jewellery made of coins is the year 1494 based on three undated shillings minted under the reign of Wolter von Plettenberg, Master of the Livonian Order (1494–1535). The jewellery could have been made later and it may have been in use for quite a long time. Bracteate pendants and penannular brooches belonging to the hoard are difficult to date as they represent the types that were in use in medieval period as well as in the 16th and 17th centuries.

It is difficult to establish when the hoard was left in the ground. A silver kopek from the Tsardom of Muscovy minted under the reign of Ivan IV (1547–1584) and a three-groschen silver coin struck in Riga in the name of King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund III in 1599 discovered in the excavation plot blur the picture. It is impossible to determine whether the coins were initially hidden along with the jewellery. Pugritsa I hoard was probably left in the ground either during the Livonian War (1558–1583), or due to the famine of 1601–1603, or in the course of the Polish-Swedish war (1600–1611).

A *Dreipölker* (1/24 Thaler) from the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia with the date 1689 was also discovered in the excavation area. This most likely represents a stray find that has no connection with the Pugritsa I hoard. A Late Iron Age bell-shaped brass pendant and an edge fragment of a bronze or copper vessel should also be considered stray finds. Three sherds of earthenware vessels indicate a nearby dwelling site.

PUGRITSA II HOARD

The find spot was a fallow field at the time of the discovery (Fig. 1). 150 coins, two unrecognizable coin fragments, a few metal artefacts, and two small pottery sherds probably not linked to the hoard were obtained (TÜ 2605). Ploughing had disturbed the hoard and it covered an area of approximately 20 metres in northwest to southeast direction and 10 metres in northeast to southwest direction. No particular concentration area of the finds was identified. Light brown field soil with no indication of dwellings and occupation covered the find spot. It is still plausible that the coins associate with a nearby dwelling site. The remains of Mäe-Pugritsa farmstead lie approximately 100 metres from the find spot. A topographic map with the scale of 1: 10 000 from the Soviet times reveals that there used to be springs in the immediate vicinity of the find spot.

The hoard consists mainly of small currencies with little silver content: there are 148 shillings and one dreiling. Only one of the coins is of a bit larger denomination, a silver Swedish



Fig. 6. Brassy rhomb-shaped pendant with a cross from Pugritsa I hoard.

Jn 6. Messingist rombikujuline ripatsrist Pugritsa I aardest. (TÜ 2604: 47.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari

¹ *Terminus post quem* – the datum before which it could not have been made.

2 mark (16-öre) (Fig. 7). Its minting year 1562 makes it the youngest coin in the hoard. The oldest coin in the hoard is a shilling struck in Tallinn in the name of Wolter von Plettenberg, Master of the Livonian Order probably between the years 1494–1500 (Haljak 2010, no. 106). The majority of the coins have been minted in either Riga or Tallinn in the name of Masters of the Livonian Order. In addition, there are also coins of Archbishopric of Riga and Bishopric of Tartu. Three shillings have been minted in Tallinn in the name of Swedish king Erik XIV, one of them from the year 1561, two without datum. The coin coming from the furthest is a dreiling struck in Germany, the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Güstrow under the reign of Albrecht VII (1528–1543).

The youngest coin of the hoard dating from the year 1562 indicates that Pugritsa II hoard was probably left in the ground due to the Livonian War (1558–1583).



Fig. 7. Swedish 2 mark (16-öre) from the year 1562, Pugritsa II hoard.

Jn 7. Rootsi 2-margane (16-öörine) hõbemünt aastast 1562
Pugritsa II aardest.

(TÜ 2605: 146.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri

PUGRITSA III HOARD

The third hoard in Pugritsa village (Tvauri 2016c) was also discovered at a fallow field (Fig. 1) with no indications of a dwelling site. The hoard had dispersed by ploughing to the area of approximately 60 × 30 metres. During the first day of investigation a fragment of a container – bottom of a clay vessel along with coins was discovered and lifted as a block for further investigation in the Laboratory of Archaeology of the University of Tartu. However, investigating the block revealed that the hoard pot had been removed from its original position by ploughing – the pot was turned upside down and shattered.

We managed to collect 5007 coins from the Pugritsa III hoard (TÜ 2606), the youngest among them (Fig. 8) minted in the year 1597. This was a period of famine and plague in the years 1601–1603, lootings in the first period of the Polish-Swedish war in the years 1600–1611 may have killed the owner of the hoard. Approximately 40 hoards are known from that period in Estonia (see Kiudsoo 2000, nos 1–32; Kiudsoo 2016; Tvauri 2016d).

An area approximately 10 km north from



Fig. 8. Shilling minted in Riga in 1597, the youngest coin in Pugritsa III hoard.

Jn 8. Riias 1597. aastal vermitud killing, Pugritsa III aarde
noorim münt.

(TÜ 2606: 3756.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri

Pugritsa village, on the territory of the historical Sangaste parish, stands out for particularly numerous hoard finds. From there the following hoards have reached archaeology collections: Sangaste II (515 coins, *tpq* 1600), Sangaste IV (more than 53 coins, *tpq* 1598), Sangaste Puka (622 coins, *tpq* 1600) (Kiudsoo 2000, nos 22, 4, and 20), Uniküla II (202 coins, *tpq* 1600) (Tvauri 2014a), Õruste Öobiku (191 coins, *tpq* 1600) (Tvauri 2014b), and Kiviküla (361 coins, *tpq* 1600) (Tvauri 2014c). It is possible that the head decoration of coin pendants from Koiva village in Karula parish with the youngest coin from the year 1591 has also been left in the ground due to the unfortunate events influencing the peasant population in the beginning

of the 17th century (Tvauri 2014d). At least 20 hoards with the *tpq* between the years 1598–1602 have caught the attention of archaeologists and historians in Latvia (Ducmane & Ozolina 2009, 132–139).

The amount of coins in Pugritsa III hoard is noteworthy. In terms of the number of coins, the largest hoard to reach public collections in Estonia is Vaidavere II coin hoard with 11 104 coins (*tpq* 1654); the second largest is Olustvere II hoard (6873 coins) left in the ground in the 14th century. Rauksi hoard (*tpq* 1618) containing 5182 coins (Kiudsoo 2012, 1) comes third. Pugritsa III hoard with its 5007 coins is fourth, and the fifth largest is Suure-Rakke coin hoard with 4872 coins (*tpq* 1600) (Kiudsoo 2012, 1).²

Pugritsa III hoard consists mainly of low-silver content coins of small denominations. The most numerous (3240) are the shillings of the Free City of Riga (Fig. 9) representing all the minting years of that type of coins (1563–1572 and 1574–1579). The proportion of coins minted in one year is relatively small up until the year 1574, but increases considerably from the year 1575 and onward (Fig. 10). Regarding the minting technology, it is obvious that the shillings were struck by hammer blow up until the year 1574 and from the year 1575, the *Walzwerk* coining machine was used. This meant significant development in minting technology where the use of machines enabled to produce larger amounts of coins faster. Numerous Latvian coin hoards from given period also reflect the introduction of the coining machine in the mint of Riga and the following increase of coin production (Ducmane & Ozolina 2009, 44). The large amount of shillings of the Free City of Riga from the Pugritsa III hoard provides good research opportunities to investigate the use and variation of coin dies.

Half-groschen minted in Vilnius under the reigns of Polish kings and Lithuanian grand dukes Alexander Jagiellonczyk (1492–1506), Sigismund I the Old (1506–1544), and Sigismund II August (1545–1572) are represented with 400 individual coins. This number is surprisingly low because usually the proportion of those coins in the southern Estonian hoards from the beginning of the 17th century is much higher (see Kiudsoo 2010, 324).

The third numerous type of coins in the hoard are the shillings of the Duchy of Courland, the vassal state of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from the years 1575–1577 represented by 374 individual coins.



Fig. 9. Shilling of the Free City of Riga from the year 1574, Pugritsa III hoard.

Jn 9. Riia Vabalinna killing 1574. aastast Pugritsa III aardest.
(TÜ 2606; 1021.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvauri

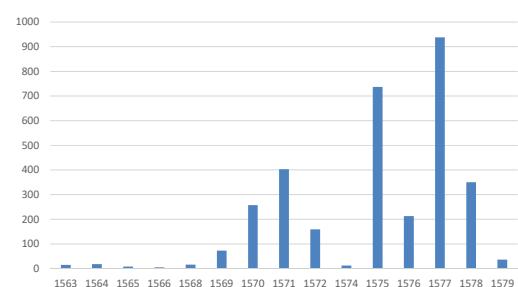


Fig. 10. Minting dates of shillings of the Free City of Riga in Pugritsa III hoard.

Jn 10. Riia Vabalinna killingite hulk vernimisaastate kauda Pugritsa III aardes.

Drawing / Joonis: Andres Tvauri

² A hoard with even a larger amount of coins has been found in Estonia. In the end of the 19th century, a hoard with the weight of 40 kg was discovered in south-eastern Estonia while building a dam for the watermill in Räpina. The hoard was associated with the hostile activities of the Great Northern War and it contained Russian silver wire *kopeks*. The find has not been preserved but considering the average weight of the coins at that time, it must have contained 150–200 000 silver coins (Kiudsoo 2007, 3).

A great quantity of shillings of the Duchy of Livonia minted in the current territory of Latvia in the castle of Dole (Dahlen) in the year 1572 to pay salary for the Polish garrison in Pärnu (Leimus 1988) represent Polish-Lithuanian money. 274 coins of that type in the Pugritsa III hoard is a substantial amount against the background of the overall distribution of such coins. For example, in 29 Latvian hoards mainly from the territory of central Latvia in the historical Vidzeme county altogether slightly over 450 shillings of the Duchy of Livonia have been discovered (Ducmane & Ozolina 2009, 48).

The hoard contains 47 shillings minted in Riga in the name of Polish-Lithuanian rulers Stephen Báthory (1576–1586) and Sigismund III (1587–1632), among them the youngest coin of the hoard bearing the date (15)97 (Fig. 8).

Exceptional among the coins of the Pugritsa III hoard is a shilling struck in Poland, Elbląg (Germ. *Elbing*) in the name of Sigismund I in the year 1539.

119 items represent coins minted in the name of Swedish kings. The most valuable among them are 12 16-öre *klippe* (Fig. 11) struck in Sweden under the reign of Erik XIV and a silver 4-öre *klippe* from the years 1563–1577. Most numerous are shillings minted in Tallinn under the reigns of Erik XIV and Johann III (altogether 34), and ½-öre coins minted in Stockholm under the reign of Johann III (65 coins). Two double shillings minted in Tallinn in 1569 are rather infrequent coins. 4 pennies represent earlier Swedish coins from Gustav Vasa's reign. In addition, the hoard contains 11 *hvid's* minted in the beginning of the 16th century in Visby, the island of Gotland belonging to the Kingdom of Denmark at the time.



Fig. 11. 16-öre *klippe* struck in Sweden in 1563 from Pugritsa III hoard

Jn 11. Rootsi 16-öörine hõbemünt aastast 1563 Pugritsa III aardest.
(TÜ 2606: 4545)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari



Fig. 12. Silver wire-kopek, minted during the reign of tsar Fyodor I Ivanovich (1584–1598) in Pugritsa III hoard.

Jn 12. Moskva Tsaari Fjodor I Ivanovitši valitsemisajal vermitud (1584–1598) hõbedast traatkopikas Pugritsa III aardest.

(TÜ 2606: 4998.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari

Out of 314 silver wire coins struck in the mints of the Tsardom of Muscovy in Moscow, Novgorod, Pskov, and Tver discovered in Pugritsa III hoard 216 are *kopeks* and 98 are *dengas* (1/2-kopek). The majority has been minted during the reign of Ivan IV (1535–1584); eight *kopeks* have been minted during the reign of his son, tsar Fyodor I Ivanovich (1584–1598) (Fig. 12). One of the wire coins is rolled cylindrical. Such coins were probably worn as jewellery. Estonian hoards have formerly revealed rolled wire coins – 11 from Rauksi hoard (*tpq* 1600), 10 from Vihavu II hoard (*tpq* 1626), seven from Jäärja hoard (*tpq* 1600/1601), four from Tõrise hoard (*tpq* 1621?), two from Lõpi hoard (*tpq* 1609), and one from Kurna I hoard (*tpq* 1710) (Kiudsoo 2001, 42; 2016).

Silvered copper coins from the Netherlands are rather uncommon in Estonian hoards. There are 9 1/6-stuivers (Fig. 13) minted in Groningen, the Dutch Republic in the years 1577, 1587, and 1588 in Pugritsa III hoard and 2 1/2-stuivers minted in 1556 in the Spanish Netherlands by the towns of Deventer, Kampen, and Zwolle. Unlike more valuable

silver thalers from the Netherlands, small change is rare both in Estonian and Latvian hoards. In Estonia, for example, some are discovered in Põdrangu hoard (*tpq* 1599) (Kiudsoo 2000, no. 6), Suure-Rakke hoard (*tpq* 1600) (Kiudsoo 2000, no. 18), Rauksi (*tpq* 1618) (Kiudsoo 2016) and Tõrise hoard (*tpq* 1621?) (Kiudsoo 2001). A few are known in the Pāle hoard (altogether 2019 coins, *tpq* 1600) from northern Latvia, Limbaži district (Ducmane 1996, 84). The small change of 1/6 and 1/2-stuivers from the Netherlands have been discovered in the hoards associated mostly with the famine and plague of the years 1601–1603.

In addition, Pugritsa III hoard contained a few shillings of the Livonian Order struck in Tallinn and Riga and some shillings from the Archbishopric of Riga and bishopric of Ösel-Wiek. There was only one coin from the Bishopric of Tartu: a ferdung minted in 1557. A silver 1/2-shilling minted in Germany, the town of Nuremberg during the reign of Friedrich III (1452–1493) is the oldest coin in the hoard.

Five silver coins from the Spanish Kingdom minted during the reign of King Philip II (1551–1598) have travelled the longest distance before reaching Pugritsa III hoard. One 8-real coin is minted in Toledo, Spain, two 8-real and one 4-real in Potosi mint in the territory of current Bolivia (Fig. 14) and one 4-real coin in Ciudad de México.

15 Estonian hoards were formerly known to contain Spanish 8- and 4-real coins (see Kiudsoo 2000), 13 of them discovered in southern Estonia in the territory of historical Duchy of Livonia. Only one of the hoards containing Spanish coins has been discovered in northern Estonia (Roostoja, Iisaku parish, *tpq* 1646). All except the Iisaku hoard, Rauksi hoard from Läänemaa County (*tpq* 1618) and Arumetsa hoard from Pärnu County (*tpq* 1623) have most plausibly been left in the ground in the years 1601–1603 (*tpq* of the coins between the years 1595–1601). In Latvia, altogether 217 coins from the Spanish colonies have been discovered in 17 hoards. Commonly, they are found in small numbers deposited together with coins of local origin and Polish-Lithuanian coins. The distribution area of Spanish coins in Latvia lies also within the limits of historical Duchy of Livonia (Ducmane & Ozoliņa 2009, 46; Ducmane 2013). Thus, the Spanish silver coins probably seem to represent a supply reaching Livonia through Riga during the closing decades of the 16th century. Only a small proportion must have ended up in the hands of peasant population. Latvian researchers Kristina Ducmane and Anda Ozoliņa believe that Spanish silver was acquired by selling local grain to Spanish provinces in Europe and to the New World (Ducmane & Ozoliņa 2009, 46).



Fig. 13. 1/6-stuiver minted in Groningen, the Dutch Republic in the year 1587 from Pugritsa III hoard.

Jn 13. Hollandi Vabariigis Groningenis vermitud 1/6-stuiverit 1587. aastast Pugritsa III aardest.
(TÜ 2606: 4675.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari



Fig. 14. 8-real silver coin from the Spanish Kingdom minted during the reign of King Philip II (1551–1598) in Potosi mint in the territory of current Bolivia.

Jn 14. Hispaania Kuningriigi 8-reaaline hõbemünt, mis on vermitud kuningas Felipe II valitsemisajal (1551–1598) Potosi müntlas tänapäeva Boliivias.

(TÜ 2606: 5003.)

Photo / Foto: Andres Tvaari

A distinctive feature of Pugritsa III hoard compared to hoards I and II from the same village is the diversity of coins. In Estonia, namely the hoards left in the ground in the first decades of the 17th century seem to have the most varied composition. In addition to local late medieval money and coins struck in local mints in the name of Swedish or Polish-Lithuanian rulers coins minted in Sweden, Lithuania, Muscovy, Denmark, Duchies of Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and its overseas colonies are represented. Hoards combine coins from different monetary systems – Swedish, Polish-Lithuanian, and Russian.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Three hoards discovered in Pugritsa village differed considerably in terms of their composition. Pugritsa I hoard consists of jewellery, 32 coin pendants were unearthed among other artefacts. Pugritsa II hoard contains 150 coins, mainly shillings from the first half of the 16th century. Pugritsa III hoard contains 5007 coins, for the most part shillings of the Free City of Riga accompanied by numerous different coin types.

Coin hoards are quite numerous in Estonia. The largest amount of hoards has been left in the ground during Early Modern Period when wars, famines, and plague epidemics were frequent. Those killed entire peasant families and their hidden treasures were forgotten. Periods characterised by large numbers of silver hoards are Livonian War (1558–1583) and Polish-Swedish wars (1600–1611, 1617–1618, 1620–1625) (Kiudsoo 2000, 3), numerous hoards associate particularly with the famine and plague epidemic of the years 1601–1603. Estimations show that the famine and plague then killed one third of Estonian peasant population within a few years (Seppel 2014a; 2014b). Russo-Swedish war (1656–1661), Great Famine of Estonia (1695–1697), and the Great Northern War (1700–1710 on Estonian territory) are also marked with numerous hoards. In most part, the hoards associated with the Great Northern War were left in the ground in the years 1710–1711 when a devastating plague epidemic hit Estonia (see Kõpp 1929).

Dating of Pugritsa I hoard is complicated. In addition to the piece of jewellery made of coins struck in the opening decades of the 16th century a silver wire kopek from the reign of Ivan IV (1535–1582) and a silver coin minted in Riga in 1599 were discovered from the excavation plot where the earth was disturbed by ploughing. The possibility that Pugritsa I hoard was left in the ground only during the Livonian War or even in the beginning of the 17th century cannot be ruled out entirely. The same can be said about Pugritsa II hoard, but considering the time when the youngest coin of the hoard was minted (1562) Livonian War seems to be the most plausible explanation. Judging by the youngest coins of Pugritsa III hoard (minted in 1597) this assemblage was left in the ground because of the famine of 1601–1603 or turmoil of the Polish-Swedish wars.

Finding three medieval or early modern hoards in the territory of the same village or in close vicinity to each other is not unique in Estonian archaeology; there are at least three former examples. Three coin hoards probably associated with the Russo-Swedish war were discovered in Vaidavere village, northern part of historical Tartumaa province (Tvaari 2016e). Two hoards (*tpq* 1600 and 1672) have been discovered in Luunja, northern part of Tartumaa province from the courtyard of Luunja manor (Kiudsoo 2000, nos 26 and 127) and a third one (*tpq* 1635) from the ‘surroundings of Luunja’ (Kiudsoo 2000, no. 72). In the northern part of historical Viljandimaa province, the village of Kabala three hoards with *tpq*-s 1559, 1600, and 1636 have been unearthed (Kiudsoo 2000, nos 21 and 73).

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KOLM KESK- JA VARAUUSAEGSET AARET PUGRITSA KÜLAST AJALOOLISELT VÕRUMAALT

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2016. a leidsid otsinguklubi "Kamerad" liikmed Valga maakonnast Pugritsa külast müntidest ja ehetest koosneva leiu (Pugritsa I aare). Leidjad informeerisid sellest Muinsuskaitseameti esindajat, kes deleegi-riis leiu dokumenteerimise ja üles võtmise käesoleva artikli autorile. Osa leidu kuulunud esemetest korjati üles juba leiupäeval, ülejäänu kaevati välja ekskavaatori abiga. Pugritsa I leiu ekskavaatoriga välja kaevamise ajal leidsid otsinguklubi liikmed nimetatud küla pöldudelt veel kaks mündiaaret, mis sama ja järgnevate päevade jooksul üles võeti. Igal leiuohjal otsiti esmalt pealmisest kihist detektorite abil, kuni metalli signaali enam ei saadud. Seejärel kooriti ekskavaatori-kopa laiuselt u 10 cm paksustesse kihtidena pinnas ära, kusjuures iga paljastunud pind ja välja tõstetud pinnas otsiti metallidetektorite abil läbi.

Pugritsa I aarde leiukoht on maaparandatud heinamaal, madala künka lõunanõlval (jn 1–2). Leiukohast veidi loode pool on veesilm, ilmselt allikakoht. Leiukohast u 50–100 m põhja ja kirde pool künka kõrgemas osas oli märgata asulakohale viitavat kivipurdu ja tumedamat mulda, aarde asukohas oli maapind aga pruun ja kivipurdu ei olnud. Kuigi kolm rinnalehte paiknes maapinnas kõrvuti, oli aare siiski laiali küntud. Leiu algset asukohta tuvastada ei õnnestunud. Samuti ei saadud vihjeid sellest, kas ja kuidas esemed olid pakitud.

Kokku võeti üles 56 numbrit leide. Nende hulgast on nii aardesse kuuluvad esemed kui ka juhuslikud leidud. Pugritsa I aardesse kuuluvad mündid, millel on raudplekist kand ja mis pärinevad töenäoliselt ühest ja samast ehtest. Selliseid münte või mündikatkeid koguti 32. Mündid leiti enamasti üksikult, vaid kaks münti olid omavahel kanna abil koos (jn 3).

Aardesse kuuluvad ka 9 madalaproovilisest hõbeplekist rinnalehte (jn 4) ja rinnalehe kand. Rinnalehti esineb arvukalt Eesti ja Põhja-Lätis 16.–17. sajandi aaretes. Pugritsa I leiu rinnalehed kuuluvad kõige tavalisematesse rinnalehetüüpidesse. Veel on Pugritsa I leius kaks hõbedast hoburaudsõlge (jn 5) ja ühe hoburaudsõle nõel. Et rauast kandadega münt-ri�atsid, rinnalehed ja hoburaudsõled olid algselt maapinnas koos, näitavad mündikandadest pärit rauarooste jälgid rinnalehtedel ja sõlggedel. Ühe sõle nõela külge oli roostetanud kannaga hõbemünt (jn 5). Mõlemad hoburaudsõled on lamedate ümarate otstega ja tordeeritud kaarega. Sõled on omavahel sedavõrd sarnased, et neid võib pidada ühe ja sama meistri toodeteks. Tegemist on Eestis ja Lätis 15.–17. sajandi aaretes sagasti esineva sõlevormiga. Töenäoliselt kuulub leidu ka messingist rombikujuline ripats-

rist (jn 6). Selliseid leidub Lätis ja Eesti 15.–16. sajandi leiukontekstides.

Müntidest koosneva ehte *tpq*, ehk daatum, enne mida seda valmistada ei võidud, on 1494. aasta, mis järeltub kolmest Liivimaa Ordu meister Wolter von Plettenbergi valitsemisajal (1494–1535) lõödud dateerimata killingist. Ehe võidi valmistada hiljemgi või olla kasutuses pikemat aega. Leidu kuuluvaid rinnalehti ja sõlgi ei ole kuigi täpselt võimalik dateerida, sest kasutusel olid sellised nii keskajal kui ka 16.–17. sajandil.

Kaevandi alalt tuli välja Moskva Tsaariigiga hõbekopikas Ivan IV ajast (1547–1584). Kas see oli peidetud koos ehetega, pole võimalik öelda. Kõige töenäoliselt jäi Pugritsa I aare maasse Vene-Liivi sõja aastatel (1558–1583). Juhul kui aardest pärineb kaevandist saadud Poola-Leedu valitseja Zygmunt III nimel Riias 1599. aastal vermitud kolmekrossiline hõbemünt, võis aare jäädä maha isegi 1601.–1603. aasta näljahäda või 17. sajandi alguses toimunud Poola-Rootsi sõja käigus.

Lisaks saadi kaevandist Kuramaa Hertsogiriigi dreipölker aastaarvuga 1689. Töenäoliselt on tegemist juhuleiuga, mis pole aardega seotud. Veel võib juhuleidudeks pidada messingist kellukesekujulist ripatsit, mis pärineb hilisrauajast ning pronksist või vasest anuma serva katket. Lähedal asuvale asulakohale viitavad kolm lihtkedrakeramilise savinõukildu.

Pugritsa II aarde leiukoht oli avastamise ajal söötis pöld (jn 1), kust koguti 150 münti, kaks määramatu mündikatket, mõned metallsemed ja kaks väikest savinõukilda, mis töenäoliselt pole seotud mündileiuga. Leid oli küntud laiali loode–kagu-suunas umbes 20 m pikkusele ja kirde–edela-suunas 10 m laiusele alale. Mingit selgemat kontsentratsiooni-ala ei suudetud kindlaks teha. Pinnas leiukohas oli helepruun põllumuld, millest midagi asulakohale viitavat ei leitud. Siiski võib arvata, et mündid on algselt olnud taluhoonete läheduses. Nimelt on leiukohast u 100 m põhja pool Mäe-Pugritsa talu ase. Leiukoht paikneb ka kunagiste allikate vahetus läheduses.

Leid koosneb valdavalt madala hõbedasisal-dusega peenrahast: 148 münti on killingid, üks on dreiling. Vaid üks aarde raha on Roots 2-margane (16-öörine) hõbemünt aastast 1562 (jn 7), mis ühtlasi on leiu noorim raha. Vanim münt on Tallinnas ordumeister Wolter von Plettenbergi nimel ajavahemikus u 1494–1500 lõödud killing. Valdav enamus müntidest on vermitud Riias ja Tallinnas Liivi Ordu meistrite nimel. Lisaks leidub Riia Peapiiskopkonna ja Tartu Piiskopkonna münte. Tallinnas Roots 1 kuningas Erik XIV nimel lõödud killingeid on kolm. Aarde

kaugeima päritoluga raha on Saksamaal Mecklenburg-Güstrowi vürstiriigis Albrecht VII (1528–1543) nimel löödud dreiling. Kuna Pugritsa II aarde noorim münt kannab aastaarvu 1562, võib aarde maasse jäämist seostada töenäoliselt mõne Vene-Liivi sõja (1558–1583) sündmusega.

Ka **Pugritsa III aare** saadi söötis pöllult (jn 1), kust midagi asulakohale iseloomulikku ei leitud. Aare oli laialt küntud umbes 60×30 m suurusele alale. Juba uuringu esimesel päeval leiti müntide mahutiks olnud savipoti põhi koos müntidega, mis monoliidina üles võeti ja Tartu Ülikooli arheoloogialaboris avati. Selgus, et aarddepott oli segi küntud.

Pugritsa III aardest õnnestus kokku koguda 5007 münti, millest hiliseim (jn 8) on vermitud 1597. aastal. Seetõttu võib oletada, et aarde omanik hukkus 1601.–1603. aasta näljahäda ja katku või aastatel 1600–1611 esimese Poola-Rootsi sõja aegse rüüstamise käigus. Sellest perioodist on Eestis teada umbes 40 aaret. Eriti rohkesti on neid päevavalgele tulnud Pugritsa külast kümmekond kilomeetrit põhja poolt ajaloolise Sangaste kihelkonna alalt. Lätis on aardeid, mille *tpq* jääb ajavahemikku 1598–1602 teaduse vaatavälja jõudnud vähemalt 20.

Pugritsa III aare müntide arvukus on märkimisväärne. Müntide hulga poolest on suurimaks Eestist saadud avalikesse kogudesse jõudnud leiuks 11104 Rootsi vaskmünti sisalda Vaidavere II aare (*tpq* 1654). Teine on Olustvere II aare (6873 münti), mis oli maasse jää nud 14. sajandil. Kolmandal kohal on Rauksi aare (*tpq* 1618), mis koosneb 5182 vermingust. Pugritsa III aare oma 5007 mündiga jääb hetkel selles arvestuses neljandale kohale. Viiendaal kohal on Suure-Rakke leid 4872 mündiga (*tpq* 1600).

Valdavalt koosneb Pugritsa III aare väga madala hõbedasisaldusega peenrahast. Kõige rohkem – 3240 – on aardes Riia Vabalinna killingeid (jn 9), mida leidub kõikidest nende müntide vermimise aastatest (1563–1572 ja 1574–1579). Ühel aastal vermitud killingite suhteline hulk on vähene kuni 1572. aastani, kuid 1575. aastast suureneb müntide hulk kordades (jn 10). Kuni 1574. aastani on Riia killingid vermitud haamriga, alates 1575. aastast aga valtmasinaga. Masinad võimaldasid münte toota märgatavalt kiiremini ja suuremal hulgul korraga.

Vilniuses Poola kuningate ja Leedu suurvürstide Aleksander I (1492–1506), Zygmunt I (1506–1544) ja Zygmunt II Augusti (1545–1572) valitsemisajal vermitud poolekrossiseid on aardes 400. Sedagi on üllatavalt vähe, sest tavaliselt on Lõuna-Eesti 17. sajandi alguse aaretes nende müntide osakaal palju suurem.

Arvukuselt järgnevad Pugritsa III aardes Poola-Leedu vasallriigi Kuramaa Hertsogiriigi killingid aastatest 1575–1577, mida on 374. Poola-Leedu münti-

dest on enim tänapäeva Lätis Dole (Dahlen) lossis 1572. aastal peamiselt Pärnu poola garnisonile palga maksmiseks vermitud Liivimaa Hertsogiriigi killingeid, mida on aardes 274. See on märkimisväärtselt suur hulk arvestades, et näiteks Lätis on neid münte 29 aardes, mis saadud peamiselt Kesk-Lätist Vidzeme ajaloolisest maakonnast, kokku veidi üle 450.

Poola-Leedu valitsejate Stefan Batory (1576–1586) ja Zygmunt III (1587–1632) nimel Riias löödud killingeid on aardes 47, nende hulgas leidub ka aarde noorim raha aastast 1597 (jn 8). Erandlikuks mündiks Pugritsa III aardes on Sigismund I nimel Poolas Elblagis (Elbingis) 1539. aastal löödud killing.

Rootsi kuningate nimel vermitud münte leidub aardes 119. Neist väärtslikeimateks on Erik XIV nimel Stockholmis löödud 12 16-öörist (jn 11) ja üks 4-öörine hõbedast klipe aastatest 1563–1577. Rootsikuningate nimel löödud müntidest on kõige arvukamalt esindatud Erik XIV ja Johann III valitsemisajal Tallinnas valmistatud killingid (kokku 34) ja Johann III ajal Stockholmis vermitud ½-öörised mündid, mida on aardes 65. Haruldasemateks müntideks on kaks Tallinnas 1569. aastal vermitud topeltkillingit. Varasematest Rootsikuningate müntidest leidub aardes kolm Gustav Vasa ajal vermitud 4-pennist. Lisaks on aardes 11 tollal Taani Kuningriiki kuulunud Gotlandil Visbys 16. sajandi alguses vermitud hvidi.

Moskva Tsaariiriigi müntlates Moskvas, Novgorodis, Pihkvas ja Tveris vermitud hõbedasi traatmünte on aardes 314, neist 216 on kopikad ja 98 dengad. Valdav enamus neist on löödud tsaar Ivan IV valitsemisajal aastatel (1535–1584), kaheksa kopikat on vermitud tema pojale tsaar Fjodor Ivanovitši (1584–1598) nimel (jn 12). Üks traatkopikatest on keeratud rulli, ilmselt ehtena kandmiseks.

Eesti aaretes ebatavalisteks müntideks on Madalmaade hõbetatud vaskmündid. Pugritsa III aardes on üheksa Hollandi Vabariigis Groningenis vermitud 1/6-stuiverit (jn 13) aastatest 1567, 1587 ja 1588 ning kaks Madalmaadel Habsburgide valdustes Deventeri, Kampeni ja Zwolle linnadeliidus vermitud ½-stuiverit aastast 1556. Madalmaade väheväärtuslik peenraha on erinevalt seal löödud hõbetaalritest Eesti ja Põhjalaatia aaretes haruldased. Nimetatud peenraha leidub peamiselt 1601.–1603. aasta nälja ja katku aegsetes aaretes.

Lisaks on aardes üksikuid Liivimaa Ordu Tallinnas ja Riias vermitud killingeid ning Riia Peapiiskopkonna ja Saare-Lääne piiskopkonna killingeid. Tartu Piiskopkonna müntidest leidus vaid üks: 1557. aastal löödud veering. Pugritsa III aardes on ka üks Nürnbergis keiser Friedrich III valitsemisajal (1452–1493) löödud poolekillingiline hõbemünt. Tegemist on ühtlasi aarde vanima rahaga.

Pugritsa III aarde kõige kaugemalt pärít olevateks müntideks on viis Hispaania Kuningriigi hõbemünti, mis on vermitud kuningas Felipe II (valitses 1551–1598) nimel. Müntidest üks 8-reaaline raha on löödud Hispaanias Toledos, kaks 8-reaalist ja üks 4-reaaline tänapäeva Boliviia alal Potosis (jn 14) ja üks 4-reaaline Ciudad de Méxicos.

Varem on Eestist teada Hispaania 8- ja 4-reaaliseid münte 15 aardest, neist 13 on Lõuna-Eestist ajaloolise Liivimaa alalt. Kõik need Lõuna-Eesti aarded on maasse jäänud suurima tõenäosusega 1601.–1603. aastal (aarete *tpq* jäab ajavahemikku 1595–1601). Lätis on Hispaania asumaade münte leitud 17 aardes kokku 217. Tavaliselt on need aarettes vähesel hulgal koos arvukate kohalike ja Poola–Leedu müntidega.

Võrreldes Pugritsa III aaret I ja II aardega torkab silma selle mitmekesine koostis. Just 17. sajandi esimesel aastakümnetel maasse jäänud aarded näivadki oma koostiselt olevat kõige mitmekesisemad – esindatud on lisaks kohalikele hiliskeskajaegsetele ning kohalikes müntlates Roots või Poola–Leedu valitsejate nimel vermitud müntidele ka Rootsis, Leedus, Moskoovias, Taanis, Saksa vürstiriikides, Madalmaades, Hispaanias ja selle meretagustes asumaades vermitud rahad. Läbisegi on aarettes Roots, Poola–Leedu ja Vene rahasüsteemi järgi valmistatud mündid.

Pugritsa küllast leitud kolm aaret on oma koostiselt täiesti erinevad. Pugritsa I koosneb peamiselt

ehetest, milles kasutatud müntidest leiti 32, Pugritsa II aardes on 150 peamiselt 16. sajandi I poole killin git. Pugritsa III aardes on 5007 münti, peamiselt Riia Vabalinnal killingid, kuid hulgaliselt on esindatud ka muud münditüübidi.

Pugritsa I aarde dateerimise teeb keerukaks asjaolu, et lisaks 16. sajandi alguses vermitud müntidest koosnevale ehtele saadi leiukohast Ivan IV aegne (1535–1582) traatkopikas ja 1599. aastast pärinev Riias löödud hõbemünt. Seega ei saa välistada võimalust, et Pugritsa I aare jäi maasse alles Vene-Liivi sõja ajal või alles 17. sajandi alguses. Sama võib öelda Pugritsa II aarde kohta, kuid arvestades selle noorima raha verrimisaega (1562), jäi see vara maha tõenäolisemalt juba Vene-Liivi sõja ajal. Pugritsa III aarde noorima, 1597. aastal vermitud, mündi põhjal otsustades on see aare maasse jäänud 1601.–1603. aasta näljahäda või Roots-Poola sõja sündmuste tulemusel.

Eestis on leitud veel vähemalt kolmest kohast kolm kesk- või varauusaegset mündiaaret sama küla maalt või muudu üksteisele väga lähedalt. Nii on saadud kolm tõenäoliselt Vene-Rootsi sõja tõttu maasse jäänud rahaleidu ajalooliselt Põhja-Tartumaalt Vaidavere külast. Põhja-Tartumaalt Luunjast on saadud kaks aaret (*tpq* 1600 ja 1672) Luunja mõisa hoovist ning kolmas (*tpq* 1635) “Luunja lähedalt”. Põhja-Viljandimaalt Kabala küllast on leitud kolm aaret, mille *tpq* on 1559, 1600 ja 1636.