



Additions to the late Viking Age hoard from Lahavere found in 2022

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A hobby searcher unearthed an ancient hoard of coins in 2022 in Lahavere, Jõgevamaa County. The hoard contained 149 coins: seven Islamic dirhams, two Byzantine miliaresia, 76 deniers of the Holy Roman Empire, a denier from Bohemia, 49 English pennies, seven coins from Denmark, and one from Sweden, plus six Scandinavian imitations of Anglo-Saxon pennies. The most recent coin in the hoard was an Anglo-Norman penny of the William II type BMC II that was minted in the early 1090s. The hoard also contained a piece of a silver sheet alongside the coins and an item that may be a weight in the shape of a horse weighing one öre, or 8.26 g. Several other medieval and early modern items were also found at the site, but no traces of a cultural layer were observed (Leimus 2023).

The finder of the Lahavere hoard continued examining the find spot in 2023, and additionally 86 coins were found that year with the aid of a metal-detector. A wide range of items alongside the coins was unearthed, consisting of a silver pendant, a piece of silver sheet, a piece of silver wire twisted into a ring, a lump of melted bronze, a fragment of a bronze object, a silver ring, a piece of bronze sheet, and a broken bronze ring.

Of the 86 coins, 83 were of the late Viking Age and match with those found in 2022, while the other three were minted in medieval or early modern times and are not from the hoard (see Table). One of the new coins in the hoard was minted in the Islamic world, 63 came from lands in the Holy Roman Empire, 15 were from England, three from Denmark, and one from Sweden.

Table. Coins of the Lahavere hoard found in 2023

Tabel. Lahavere aarde 2023. aastal leitud mündid

Compiled by / Koostanud: Ivar Leimus

ISLAMIC COINS / ISLAMI MÜNDID

| No. / Nr | Dynasty / Dünastia | Ruler / Valitseja | Mint / Vermija | Date / Aasta | Weight g / Kaal gr | Remarks / Märkused |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Zijarids | Rukn al-Dawla and Zahir al-Dawla | Unknown | Unknown | 2.97 | Worn |

GERMAN COINS / SAKSA MÜNDID

| No. / Nr | Mint / Vermija | Ruler / Valitseja | Date / Aasta | References / Viide | Weight g / Kaal gr | Remarks / Märkused |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Andernach | Emp. Konrad II and Archb. Pilgrim | 1027–1036 | Dbg. 453 | 0.91 | |
| 3 | Andernach | Emp. Konrad II and Archb. Pilgrim | 1027–1036 | Dbg. 446–453 | 0.15 (frg.) | |
| 4 | Remagen or Andernach? | Emp. Henry II | 1014–1024 | Häv. 207 | 1.46 | |
| 5 | Remagen or Andernach? | Archb. Anno | 1056–1075 | Häv. 317 | 0.42 (frg.) | |
| 6 | Flanders-Brabant, unknown mint | unknown ruler | before 1050 | Ilisch 2014, 17.4 | 0.68 | |
| 7 | Maastricht | Otto III | 983–1002 | Dbg. 239; Ilisch 2014 40.1.1 var., obv.: +// RETISmO/E// | 1.08 | |
| 8 | Ciney | Emp. Henry III | 1046–1056 | Dbg. 1191a; Ilisch 2014, 29.3.1 | 1.09 | |
| 9 | Unknown mint (Herstal?) | Emp. Konrad II and Duke Gozelo I | 1027–1039 | Dbg. 1438; Ilisch 2014, 37.14 | 1.07 | |
| 10 | Unknown mint | unknown ruler | | Ilisch 2014, - | 1.11 | Obv. crowned head? to right, rev. head to right |
| 11 | Cologne | Emp. Konrad II and Archb. Hermann II | 1036–1038 | Häv. 251 | 1.54 | |
| 12 | Cologne | Emp. Konrad II and Archb. Hermann II | 1036–1039 | Häv. 257 | 1.51 | |
| 13 | Cologne | Archb. Hermann II | 1039–1056 | Häv. 278 | 1.48 | |
| 14 | Cologne | Archb. Hermann III | 1089–1099 | Häv. 403 | 1.59 | |
| 15 | Duisburg | Emp. Konrad II and Archb. Pilgrim | 1027–1039 | Dbg. 311; Berghaus 1983, 1:1 | 1.36 | |
| 16 | Duisburg | Emp. Henry IV | 1084–1106 | Dbg. 1514; Berghaus 1983, 9:2c | 0.95 | |
| 17 | Vicinity of Duisburg-Dortmund | Emp. Konrad II | 1027–1039 | Dbg. 1841 var.; Leimus 1986, 679 | 1.26 | |
| 18 | Deventer | Emp. Henry II | 1014–1024 | Dbg. 563; Ilisch 2000, 1.8 | 0.95 | |
| 19 | Deventer | B. Bernold | 1046–1054 | Dbg. 572; Ilisch 2000, 1.15 | 0.92 | Hole on edge |
| 20 | Tiel | Kg. Henry II | 1002–1014 | Ilisch 2000, 3.2 | 1.66 | |
| 21 | Tiel | Konrad II | 1024–1039 | Ilisch 2000, 3.9 | 1.37 | |
| 22 | Tiel | Henry III | 1046–1056 | Ilisch 2000, 3.18 | 0.92 | |
| 23 | Tiel | Henry IV | 1056–1106 | Ilisch 2000, 3.27 | 0.89 | According to Trostyanskiy 2017, 20 Utrecht. However, on the Lahavere coins it reads clearly TIELA |

| No. / Nr | Mint / Vermija | Ruler / Valitseja | Date / Aasta | References / Viide | Weight g/ Kaal gr | Remarks / Märkused |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 24 | Tiel | Henry IV | 1056–1106 | Ilisch 2000, 3.27 | 0.19 (frg.) | |
| 25 | Tiel | Henry IV? | 1056–1106 | Ilisch 2000, 3.26? | 0.32 (frg.) | |
| 26 | Tiel or vicinity | Henry II or Konrad II | 1002–1039 | | 0.62 (frg.) | Worn |
| 27 | Unknown mint | Count Wichmann III | 994–1016 | Dbg. 1229; Ilisch 2000, 20.2 | 0.80 | |
| 28 | Dortmund | Kg. Henry II | 1002–1014 | Dbg. 752; Berghaus 1978, 13 | 0.91 | |
| 29 | Soest | 'Emp. Otto III' | Early 11th c. | Häv. 73; Ilisch 1990 | 1.54 | |
| 30 | Soest | 'Emp. Otto III' | Early 11th c. | Häv. 849–850; Ilisch 1990 | 1.27 | |
| 31 | Corvey | Abbot Arnold or Ruthard | 1046–1050–1055 | Dbg. 735 or 736 | 0.96 | |
| 32 | Goslar | Emp. Henry IV | 1084–1106 | Dbg. 671; Matthaei 2021, 31 | 0.92 | |
| 33 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, IV6 | 1.22 | |
| 34 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, IV10 | 1.37 | |
| 35–36 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, IV | 1.45, 1.42 | Worn |
| 37 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, V2a | 1.08 | |
| 38 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, V2g3 | 1.09 | |
| 39 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | Hatz 1961, V3 | 1.52 | Worn |
| 40 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid imitation | | Hatz 1961, VI2b | 1.13 | |
| 41 | Goslar <i>et al.</i> | Otto and Adelheid | | | 1.83 | Worn |
| 42 | Gittelde | anonymous | | Dbg. 1310; Kipp 2016, GMK6c | 0.89 | |
| 43 | Mainz | Kg. Konrad II | 1024–1027 | Dbg. 789 | 0.96 | |
| 44–45 | Mainz | Emp. Konrad II | 1027–1039 | Dbg. 790 | 1.09, 1.01 | |
| 46 | Mainz | Emp. Konrad II | 1027–1040 | Dbg. 1373 | 1.51 | |
| 47 | Mainz | Emp. Henry III and Archb. Lupold | 1051–1059 | Dbg. 807 | 1.02 | |
| 48 | Worms | Henry II | 1002–1024 | Dbg. 845 | 1.15 | |
| 49–52 | Worms | 'Henry II' | 2nd quarter of the 11th c. | Dbg. 845 var.; Leimus 1993 | 1.11, 1.02, 1.00, 0.95 | |
| 53 | Würzburg | Emp. Otto III | 996–1002 | Dbg. 856 | 1.08 | |
| 54 | Bamberg | B. Eberhard I | 1007–1040 | Dbg. 1653b | 0.69 | |
| 55 | Strassburg | Emp. Konrad II | 1027–1039 | Dbg. 921 | 1.07 | |
| 56–57 | Strassburg | Emp. Henry III | 1046–1056 | Dbg. 709; Kluge 1991, 149 | 1.28, 1.17 | Hole on edge |
| 58 | Augsburg | anonymous | 1060–1080s? | Dbg. 1043; Hahn 1976, 164 | 1.25 | |
| 59 | Regensburg | Kg. Henry II, 1. per. | 1002–1009 | Hahn 1976, 27 | 0.26 (frg.) | |
| 60 | | unknown ruler | Late 11th c. | Crude imitation? | 1.18 | Obv. head? to right, rev. cross between 2 towers |
| 61–64 | | unknown ruler | | Unidentified fragments | 0.41, 0.28, 0.18, 0.13 | |

ENGLISH COINS / INGLISE MÜNDID

| No. / Nr | Ruler / Valitseja | Type / Tüüp | Mint / Rahapada | Moneyer / Müntmeister | Weight g / Kaal gr |
|----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 65 | Aethelred II | Long cross | London | Eadwold | 1.64 |
| 66 | Aethelred II | Long cross | London | Uncertain moneyer | 0.56 (frg.) |
| 67 | Aethelred II | Long cross | Shrewsbury | Aelfheh | 1.84 |
| 68 | Aethelred II | Last small cross | London | Aelfwi | 1.11 |
| 69 | Cnut | Quatrefoil | London | Godric | 1.02 |
| 70 | Cnut | Quatrefoil | Lydford | Saewine | 0.97 |
| 71 | Cnut | Pointed helmet | London | Aelfgar | 0.98 |
| 72 | Cnut | Pointed helmet | London | Aelfwerd | 1.06 |
| 73 | Cnut | Pointed helmet | London | Eadwold | 0.99 |
| 74 | Cnut | Pointed helmet | London | Leofred | 0.93 |
| 75 | Cnut | Pointed helmet | Thetford | Leofric | 1.01 |
| 76 | Cnut | Short cross | Chester | Gunleof | 1.13 |
| 77 | Cnut | Short cross | Winchester | Godwine Cas | 1.14 |
| 78 | Cnut | Short cross | York | Osgo... | 0.94 (pierced twice) |
| 79 | Edward III | Pacx | Uncertain mint | Uncertain moneyer | 0.42 (frg.) |

SCANDINAVIAN COINS / SKANDINAAVIA MÜNDID

| No. / Nr | Country / Riik | Ruler / Valitseja | Date / Aasta | Mint / Rahapada | Reference / Viide | Weight g / Kaal gr |
|----------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 80 | Denmark | Svend Estridsen | 1047–1076 | Lund | Hb. 6 var., cross to right | 0.84 (broken edge) |
| 81 | Denmark | Svend Estridsen | 1047–1076 | Lund | Hb. 8 | 1.03 |
| 82 | Denmark | Svend Estridsen | 1047–1075 | Viborg | Hb. 56a | 0.60 |
| 83 | Sweden | 'Aethelred II' | 'Long cross' | Sigtuna | Malmer 1989, 245/626 | 1.28 |

LATER COINS / HILISED MÜNDID

| No. / Nr | Land/ Region / Riik/Regioon | Ruler / Valitseja | Date / Aasta | Mint / Rahapada | Reference / Viide | Denomination / Vääring | Weight g / Kaal gr |
|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 84 | Westphalia | Bernhard III? | 1229–1265 (ca. 1235/40) | Lippstadt? | Grote & Hölzermann 1867, 5? | Denier | 0.91 |
| 85 | Russia | Mikhail Fedorovich | 1613–1645 | Moscow | | Copeck | 0.34 |
| 86 | Livonia | Riga Free City | 1575 | Riga | | Schilling | |

The Islamic coin bears the names of the Ziyarid ruler Zahir al-Dawla or Bisutun and his nominal sovereign Rukn al-Dawla, the Buyid, but its place and year of minting are unfortunately worn away. It is known that dirhams with these names on were minted in AH 360–367 (AD 970–978) (Album 2011, 172).

The new German coins show a quite even distribution across different regions of the Empire. As is usually the case, a majority of them are Otto and Adelheid pennies minted in and around Goslar, but there are also deniers from Mainz, Worms and Tiel. Of particular note among the rarer German coins is the denier minted in Andernach in the name of Emperor Konrad II and Archbishop Pilgrim of Cologne with a portrait of the emperor inside a building on the reverse (Table: 2; Fig. 1), of which only about a dozen examples had been described until recently (Dbg. 453; Häv. 734; Kluge 2001, no. 22.19). The coin is part of a series minted in the names of Konrad II and Pilgrim, and although their time in office coincided from 1027 to 1036, the coins may have continued to be minted at another mint or mints besides Andernach until about 1060 (Kluge 2001, 177). It is quite usual for some of the more common German

deniers of the 11th century to remain around as a *type immobilisé* for some time after the reign of the ruler they depict.

The second rare find is from Mainz in the time of Emperor Konrad II (1027–1039) (Table: 46; Fig. 2). The design of the coin is very similar to that of coins issued under the next ruler, Henry III (1039–1056) (Dbg. 793), which suggests that coins with that design started to be minted immediately before Konrad II died.

It is possible that one of the coins in the find is a denier minted in Western Lower Lorraine (Table: 10), but its condition is such that it is not certain what is depicted on it. The coin of Emperor Otto III (983–1002) minted in Maastricht is a version that has not previously been described (Table: 7; Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Andernach, Emperor Konrad II and Archbishop Pilgrim of Cologne (1027–1036).

Jn 1. Andernach, keiser Konrad II ja Kölni peapiiskop Pilgrim (1027–1036).

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 2. Mainz, Emperor Konrad II (1027–1039).

Jn 2. Mainz, keiser Konrad II (1027–1039).

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 3. Maastricht, Emperor Otto III (996–1002).

Jn 3. Maastricht, keiser Otto III (996–1002).

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

The most recent German coin, indeed the most recent in the whole find, was minted in the name of Archbishop Hermann III of Cologne (1089–1099) (Table: 14; Fig. 4). This means that the coins found in 2023 do not change the earlier dating of the hoard to the early 1090s.

There were no rare coins among the English pennies this time. Of particular note among the Scandinavian coins is a denier minted in Lund under Danish King Svend Estridsen (1047–1075), which shows the usual image of a seated Christ, but with an upright cross added on top of his throne (Table: 80; Fig. 5).



Fig. 4. Cologne, Archbishop Hermann III (1089–1099).

Jn 4. Köln, peapiiskop Hermann III (1089–1099).

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 5. Denmark, Svend Estridsen (1047–1075), Lund.

Jn 5. Taani, Svend Estridsen (1047–1075), Lund.

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 6. Piece of a gilded silver sheet.

Jn 6. Kullatud hõbepleki tükk.

Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

One of the items found that is clearly a part of the hoard is a piece of a gilded silver sheet weighing 5.08 g (Fig. 6), the edges of which are decorated with engraved concentric lines and bear silver testing marks or pecks. The piece of silver that was found in 2022 was also cut from the same item, which may have been a silver dish, but the two pieces do not fit together. They may have been received during some earlier transaction, but it is possible that they were cut from the item at the place they were found.

Also clearly part of the hoard is a conical silver pendant decorated with round granulation and weighing 3.82 g, which is well preserved apart from the suspension loop that has broken off (Fig. 7). This is also shown by the testing marks that are visible on the back of it. Pendants of the same type are known from ancient Rus (Gushchin 1936, plate V: 5, Shalakhov hoard; Korzukhina 1954, plate XXV: 12, Skadino hoard), but have also been encountered in Sweden in the Valbo and Gullunge hoards, and Finland at Halikko and Tiurinlinna, presently in Russia (Stenberger 1958, 195–196; Duczko 1986, 21–22). Three such pendants have earlier been found in Estonia in the hoards of Rääbise and Kose and the collection of pastor Lüdig (Leimus 1986, 72–73). These hoards date from the 10th–12th centuries (Duczko 1986, 21–22), but the field of the pendants is generally divided into four parts. The Lahavere pendant, however, is divided into five segments. Three very similar pendants occurred in a hoard from Gnezdovo that dates from 950/1 AD (Pushkina 1996, 177–178; Fomin 1996, 188). They are not the only ones to deviate from the standard form, because an item of jewellery of the same form bearing a quite different design in fine wire was also found in the hoard of Piila in Kaarma (Leimus 2019).

Marks from the testing of silver that are typically Viking are also evident on the ring made from silver wire (Fig. 8), which makes it highly probable that it is part of the same hoard. Whether the weight of the ring of 1.38 g is a coincidence or whether it has been trimmed to the weight of a denier can be speculated, but cannot be conclusive.

The fourth silver item, a ring with a wider middle part and overlapping ends is decorated with a houndstooth pattern (Fig. 9). It looks to be made of poorer quality silver, and other reference material from Estonia suggests it may be from a later time than the hoard, possibly the 12th–13th century (see Tamla & Kiudsoo 2009, 42–43, Savastvere hoard (12th century); Tõnisson 1962, plate XXV: 9, Tõrma hoard (estimated early 13th century); Jets 2023, 68, Muhu hoard (early 13th century)). There are also tiny nicks on the edge of it, which resemble



Fig. 7. A conical silver pendant decorated with granulation.

Jn 7. Koonusekujuline granulatsiooniga hõberipats.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

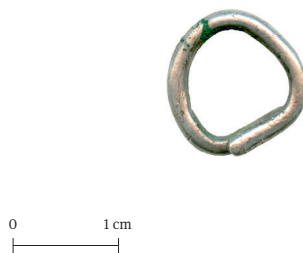


Fig. 8. A ring from silver wire.

Jn 8. Hõbetraadist rõngake.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 9. A ring.

Jn 9. Sõrmus.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

the Viking-era test marks for silver. Very similar rings to that from Lahavere have been found in the Malmsmyr hoard, Rone, Gotland, Sweden (SHM 16477). Unfortunately, there are no coins in the Malmsmyr hoard that would allow it to be dated precisely, but the jewellery indicates it must be Viking, from around AD 800–1000.¹ Whether the Lahavere ring is part of the hoard can only be guessed for the time being, as it could equally well be a random find that has been collected alongside the rest.

The bronze items found in Lahavere are not part of the hoard, but are certainly worthy of consideration. The most important of them is a lump of bronze that resembles spirals that have melted into one piece, or perhaps the buttons of a jewellery needle or needles (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10. A lump of melted bronze.
Jn 10. Sulanud pronksikänkar.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 11. Bronze items found in Lahavere.
Jn 11. Pronksesemaid Lahaverest.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

Such a lump could only be made in a fire, which hints at burials and so indicates an ancient grave. Yet there appears to be no cultural layer at the findspot of the hoard or nearby, which argues against this (Kangert 2022). Still, the items found there that are not part of the hoard indicate long-term human activity (Leimus 2023, 55).

The fragment of a bronze item with holes may have been part of a decorative pin and may date from the 11th–13th century (Fig. 11: 1), and it may have come from the same supposed grave as the lump of bronze. The fragment of a bronze ring with an unclear pattern by contrast dates to early modern times (Fig. 11: 2). Another piece of a bronze sheet has a delicate stippled lattice pattern on it (Fig. 11: 3). Its function and date of origin remain unclear, but it is probably not from the prehistoric period.

In total, the finds from 2023 add to the contents of the hoard that was found in the previous year, which now consists of 232 coins and a range of items, with a total of 267.28 g, or more than a quarter of a kilogram of silver. That makes it a medium-sized hoard for Estonian conditions in the year 1100. The new finds do not change the dating of the hoard or the conclusions about its contents and its origin.

The items found that are not part of the hoard indicate, however, that despite the alleged absence of a cultural layer, there must have been a more permanent settlement in the vicinity of the site. This is suggested by

¹ The bracelets in the hoard have various cross-shaped marks engraved on the inside, which date them to no earlier than the end of the 10th century.

the finds that may originate from burial sites, and by the isolated items found that date from medieval and early modern times.

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LISANDUSI LAHAVEREST 2022. AASTAL LEITUD HILISVIIKINGIAEGSELE MÜNDIAARDELE

Ivar Leimus

2022. aastal avastati Jõgevamaal Lahaveres hilisviikingiaegne hõbeaare – 149 münti, millest noorim on vermitud 1090. aastate algupoolel, ja mõned esemed. 2023. aastal jätkas leidja aarde leiukoha ülevaatust. Sel aastal avastati 86 münti ja rida esemeid: hõberipats, hõbepleki tükk, rõngasse keeratud hõbetaadi jupp, sulanud pronksesemete känkar, mingi pronkseseme katkend, hõbesõrmus, pronkspleki tükk ja katkine pronksõrmus.

Müntidest 83 on hilisviikingiaegsed ja kujutavad endast täiendust 2022. aasta leiule, kuid kolm ülejäänud vermingut on keskaegsed-varauusaegsed (tabel). Aardele lisandunud müntidest on üks vermitud islami maailmas, 63 Saksa-Rooma keisririigi aladel, 15 Inglismaal, kolm Taanis ja üks Rootsis. Lisandunud mündid ei muuda aarde varasemat dateeringut 1090. aastate algupoolele.

Leitud esemetest kuuluvad käsitletavasse aardesse kindlasti kullatud hõbepleki tükk, ümmargune

granulatsiooniga kaunistatud koonusjas hõberipats ja hõbetaadist keeratud rõngake. Hundihammastornamendiga kaunistatud laieneva keskosaga ja vaheliti otstega sõrmus võiks Eesti võrdlusmaterjali põhjal olla aardest hilisem, kuid see pole kindel.

Lahaverest avastatud pronksesemed aardesse ei kuulu. Neist olulisem on pronkskänkar, millest aimub kokku sulanud spiraale, aga võib-olla ka ehtenõela(de) nuppe. Niisugune känkar sai tekkida ainult tules ja viitab põletusmatusele ning seega muinasaegsele kalmele. Muinasaega kuulub samuti pronksist ehtenõela katke, kuna muud esemed on hilisemad.

Praeguseks tunneme leiust 232 münti ja rida esemeid, kokku üle veerandi kilo (267,28 g) hõbedat. Seda võib Eesti oludes 1100. aasta paiku pidada keskmist suurusjärku peitvaraks. Aardesse mitte kuuluvad leiud lubavad järeldada, et leiukoha läheduses on pidanud olema püsivam asustus.