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ARHEOLOOGILISED  
VÄLITÖÖD EESTIS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD  
WORKS IN ESTONIA IN  
1996

*Koostanud ja toimetanud Ülle Tamla*

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Tartu Ülikooli Raamatukogu



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN OTEPÄÄ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IN 1966

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## **The settlement and stone setting of Ala-Pika**

In 1996, small excavations were continued on the settlement and stone setting of Ala-Pika (Kanepi parish), located ca. 6 km NE of Otepää (see Valk, 1996). On the settlement, rescue excavations occurred immediately to the east of the former excavation plot No. 2, on an area recently damaged by soil removal (ca. 50 m<sup>2</sup>). The cultural layer had been mostly removed for creating a green area near a new building. However, the bottom of the cultural layer, with a thickness of 20–30 cm, was still preserved ( TÕ 442). The damaged area was prepared for future rescue excavations (the irregular zigzagged walls and uneven bottom of the hole were evened). The pottery finds resemble those of the previous year. From the upper part of the cultural layer, formed, probably, in the course of the settlement-time erosion, a blue ribbed glass bead and a fragment of a knife were found (Fig., 1, 2). The finds perhaps date to the 1st half or middle of the 1st millennium.

On the stone setting of Ala-Pika, the work at the trial plot (9 m<sup>2</sup>), opened in 1995, was finished. The massive granite stones were removed and the bottom of cultural layer, between and under the stones, was studied. In addition to tiny fragment of poorly burnt dark brown pottery, a small round brooch, a profiled brooch, two glass beads and some bronze beads on an iron wire were found (Fig., 3, 4, 5). Altogether with the finds from 1995, from the trial plot, 10 single, 1 double, 1 triple and 5 five-partite bronze beads, two beads with gold folium and a simple small black glass bead have been found. Small and round brooches, knobbed edged and rhomb or cross decorated brooches were the most typical finds for the tarand grave of Kambja, Nõo and Kanepi parishes of southern Tartumaa in the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Laul, 1962, 22–23; EEA, 1982, 229). The profiled brooch belongs to the South-Estonian/ North-Latvian series and can be dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century (Laul, 1965, 326). The bronze beads



and beads with gold folium occur frequently together in the *tarand*-graves of SE Estonia and date from the same period (Laul, 1962, 28; 1965, 333—334). According to the finds, the stone-setting of Ala-Pika seems to be a typical *tarand*-grave, of the 3<sup>rd</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> century. Nevertheless, its pottery is somewhat untypical for the *tarand*-graves of SE Estonia: no fragments of the typical red-coloured and textile-impressed pottery have been found there.

When the massive stones (diameter of about 50—80 cm) were removed from their places, in their “beds” on the clean yellow sand, tiny fragments of soot, ash and charcoal was observed. Seemingly, the stones were placed there immediately after cleaning the ground by fire. The amount of charcoal was, however, so small that it could not be observed during the excavation. It must also be noted that the natural soil had been removed from the cemetery area — otherwise the stones would not have lain on clean undisturbed sand but on the brownish soil.

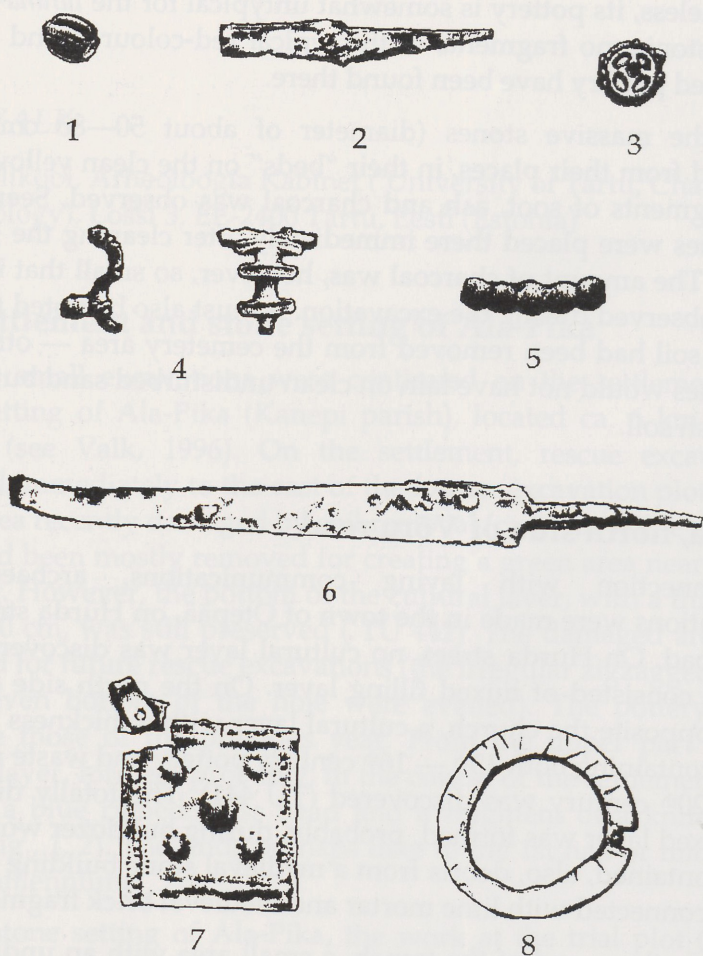
### Otepää, north side of Võru road

In connection with laying communications, archaeological observations were made in the town of Otepää, on Hurda street and Võru road. On Hurda street, no cultural layer was discovered. The ground consisted of mixed filling layer. On the north side of Võru street, opposite the church, a cultural layer with a thickness of 0.8—1.2 m, containing both 13<sup>th</sup> — 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery and waste material of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was discovered (TÜ 441). The totally disturbed and mixed layer was formed, probably, during bulldozer works. The layer contained, also, debris from a medieval stone building (granite stones connected with lime mortar and medieval brick fragments).

In the southern end of the trench, a small area with an undisturbed cultural layer was preserved. A bottom of 0.85—0.9 cm thick granite stone foundation was found. The stones were not connected by mortar and included two bricks of medieval size ( 29 x 13 x 10 cm). To the east of the foundation, there was a carefully made cobblestone pavement (the diameter of the bigger stones was 20—30 cm) with door-sill stone. The floor pavement was covered by sooty debris with a layer of medieval brick fragments and mortar above. Since only small fragments of brick were found, it seems that all the stones suitable for secondary use had been picked out from the ruins. From the debris, two fragments of late medieval pottery (probably 15<sup>th</sup> — 16<sup>th</sup> century) were found. Judging by the general stratigraphy, the foundation and the floor-pavement might have come from a



medieval house with a half-cellar (floor at least 1 m below the medieval ground level).



*Fig. Artefacts from the settlement and stone setting of Ala-Pika (1—5) and from the medieval cemetery of Otepää (6—8)*

## Otepää, medieval cemetery at the cross-road of Tartu and Piiri Street

In Otepää, the medieval cemetery, located at the cross-road of Tartu and Piiri streets, was also studied. The cemetery was first investigated in 1928, 1929 and 1938 (Schmiedehelm, 1928, 1929; Saadre, 1938). In all, 129 burials dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century were opened. After the total destruction of buildings in the cemetery area



in 1944, the network of streets was changed and on top of the medieval graveyard a parking-lot and schoolhouse were founded. During these works, the relief was greatly changed and from the new parking-lot a 0.7—1.0 m thick layer of ground was removed; the preservation of the cemetery in this area remained, in fact, unknown until 1996.

In 1996, the old parking-lot was reconstructed. When the area was surfaced by a bulldozer, it became apparent that the burials were lying immediately under the graveling: when the parking-lot had been founded in the 1950's, the bulldozer had worked just within the horizon of the burials. When the filling gravel was removed, WSW—ENE and SW—NE directional grave-pits were observed in the sand.

During the rescue excavations, seven burials were investigated. The graves were oriented with the heads between the W and SW. Burials No. 1—3 lay in one grave and did not have, evidently, any coffin. From under the right pelvis of burial No. 1 (female?, 18—25 years) a ca. 30 cm long iron knife with a deliberately broken end (Fig., 6) was found (TÜ 443). Burial No. 2 (male, 40—60 years) had no artefacts. Burial No. 3 (juvenile,  $3,5 \pm 1$  years) had a necklace of yellow glass beads, cowrie shells and a rhomboid bronze pendant (Fig., 7) around the neck. Burial No. 4 (female, adult) was lying in an irregular position and had been damaged by bulldozer. In the neck region, there were cowrie shells and small yellow glass beads. Under the distal end of the right femur, from an area of about  $3 \times 3$  cm, tiny bronze spirals were found. Burial No. 5 (female, 40—50 years) had no artefacts. Burial No. 6 (male, 30—40 years) was greatly damaged by the previous one; on the breast there was a round bronze brooch (Fig., 8). Burial No. 7 (juvenile, ca. 9 years) was totally disturbed by the bulldozer; among the mixed bones a simple penannular brooch with rolled ends was found. As stray finds, two tiny bronze rings were gained.

The excavations results of 1996 confirm the former impression of a cemetery with rather regular planning and rather short time of usage (disturbed burials occur rarely). The finds resemble those gained at earlier excavations and date, evidently, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Probably, the cemetery belongs to the inhabitants of the medieval settlement of Otepää. The finds, typical for the Estonian village cemeteries, show that a large number of its inhabitants were of local origin.



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## ARHEOLOOGILISTEST UURIMISTÖÖDEST OTEPÄÄL JA OTEPÄÄ ÜMBRUSES 1996. AASTAL

Heiki VALK

### Ala-Pika asulakoht ja kivikalme

1996. aastal jätkusid väiksemad uurimistööd Ala-Pika asulakohal ja kivikalmel. Asulakohal toimusid päästekaevamised eelmise aasta idapoolse kaevandi kõrval — alal, kus 1996. aasta kevadel oli kultuurikihi musta mulda võetud naabruses asuva maja ümbruse haljastamiseks. Kohati enam kui meetri kõrguste profiilidega u. 50 m<sup>2</sup> suuruse augu põhjas oli kultuurikihti säilinud u. 30 cm paksuselt. Päästekaevamised piirdusid eeltöödega järgnevas suveks kavandatud uuringuteks. Saadud keraamika sarnaneb 1995. aastal leitud. Kultuurikihi ülaosast leiti üks ribiline sinine klaashelmes ning väikese raudnoa katke (joon., 1, 2).

Uurimistööd lõpetati Ala-Pika kivikalmel. Suurte kalmekivide paigalt kangutamise järel paljandus neist ligi kolmandiku pesades kollasel alusliival tahmaviirge ja peeni söekübemeid. Ilmselt on kalmekivid toodud tulega puhastatud maapinnale. Enne kalme rajamist on algne looduslik alusmuld eemaldatud. Kalmepõhjalt leiti lisaks keraamikale kərbis- ja ketassõlg, kuldfooliumiga klaashelmes ning õõnsaid



raudtraadil kantud pronkshelmeid (joon., 3—5). Leidude põhjal otsustades rajati Ala-Pika kalme arvatavalt 3.—4. sajandil. Erinevalt Kagu-Eesti tarandkalmetest leiti Ala-Pikalt eripärast nõrgalt põletatud ja jämeda kivipurruga keraamikat.

## **Otepää linn**

Otepää linnas tehti arheoloogilist järelevalvet seoses kommunikatsioonitrassi paigaldamisega. Trass kulges piki Hurda tänavat: alates Tartu tänavast kuni Võru maanteeeni ning jätkus ligi 15 m ulatuses Võru maantee põhjaküljel kiriku vastas oleval rohumaal. Hurda tänaval kultuurkiht puudus. Kiriku vastas maanteeäärse põndaku servas võis ligi 15 m ulatuses jälgida u. 1.5 m paksuselt segatud pinnast, mis sisaldas nii 13.—16. sajandi keraamikat kui ka 20. sajandi olmeprahti. Segamata kultuurkihile satuti vaid trassi idaotsas. Siin oli kuni 0.9 m paksune mõrdiga sidumata raudkividest vundamenditald, millega külgnest korralikult laotud põrandasillutis koos arvatava lävekiviga. Rajatise keskaegsusele viitavad kaks vundmendi põhjast leitud suuremõõtmelist tellist. Samasuguste telliste tükke leidis ka sillutist katnud nõrgisest rusukihis ning kõrgemal jätkunud tellisepuru- ja mõrdikihis. Näib, et pärast hoone hävimist on rusudest ehituseks sobivaid kive välja korjatud. Nähtavasti pärinevad avastatud jäänused poolkeldriga keskaegsest kivihoonest.

## **Kalmistu Otepääl Tartu ja Piiri tänava ristmiku lähistel**

Tartu ja Piiri tänava ristmikul asuva parkla rekonstrueerimisel satuti keskaegsele kalmistule. Seda kalmistut uuriti 1928, 1929 ja 1938. aastal. Pärast seda, kui Piiri tänava hoonestus 1944. aastal hävis, kadus ka tänava idaosa. Kalmistualale rajati koolihoone ning parkla. Selle kohta, kas ja kuivõrd kalmistut säilinud on, kuni 1996. aasta sügiseni andmed puudusid.

Parkla tasandamisel ilmnes, et ehituse ajal on planeerimisnivoo läbinud otse matmishorisonti, ja et osa matustest on siiski säilinud. Ühtekokku puhastati välja kuus peaga läände ja edelasse maetud luustikku, s.h. üks kolmikmatust ning üks ehitusega täiesti lõhutud matust. Luustikud 1—3 moodustasid kirstuta kolmikmatust. Esimese luustiku — 18—25 a. vanune naine (?) — parema vaagnaluu alt leiti suurem rauast nuga, mille terapoolne ots oli ära murtud (joon., 6). Tahtlikult vigastatud nuge Lõuna-Eesti keskaegsetest kalmistutest varem leitud ei ole. Teine luustik — 40—60 a. mees — oli leidudeta; kolmanda (u. 3,5 a. vanune laps) kaelas oli kauriteokarpidest, kollastest klaashelmestest ja rombikujulisest pronksrinnalehest kee (joon., 7). Neljas luustik — täiskasvanud naine — oli ebakorrapäraselt asendis. Kaela piirkonnast leiti kauriteokarpe ja klaashelmeid. Parema põlve juures, sääreluu ülemise otsa all oli kogum väikseid pronksspiraale. Viies luustik — 40—50 a. naine — oli leidudeta. Selle haua kaevamisega oli lõhutud kuuendat luustikku (30—40 a. mees), mille rinnalt leiti rõngassõlg (joon., 8). Seitsmenda — u. 9 a. laps — luud olid täiesti segatud. Samast leiti rullotstega hoburaudsõlg. Juhuleidudena saadi veel kaks pronksrõngast.

Kaevamistulemused kinnitasid varasemat käsitlust kalmistu suhtelisel korrapärasest planeeringust. Leiumaterjal sarnaneb varemsaaduga ning pärineb ilmselt 14. sajandist. Tõenäoliselt kuulus kalmistu keskaegse Otepää alevi elanikele.