https://doi.org/10.3176/hum.soc.sci.1994.1.03

EXCAVATIONS AT NARVA

Kaarel JAANITS

Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Ajaloo Instituut (Institute of History, Estonian Academy of Sciences), Rüütli 6, EE-0001 Tallinn, Eesti (Estonia)

In 1992 a fortified settlement of the Early Metal Age was excavated by the joint expedition of Narva Museum and the Institute of History of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. The fortified settlement is situated about 1 km upstream from the Hermann Castle, on the left bank of the Narva River, at a 10 m high limestone hill, the bulk of which was destroyed in the mid-1950s in connection with the construction works of the Narva hydro-electric power station (on the opposite bank of the river). The cultural layer of the settlement was also destroyed, except partly at the NW slope of the hill. According to the map drawn in the first half of the 1950s [1], the area of the hill seems to have been about 10 000 m² before destruction. Immediately NW of the fortified settlement, at a triangular terrace, lies the Narva Stone Age site.

In the 1960s, during the excavations of the Narva Stone Age site, a small collection of pottery was gathered at the fortified settlement site.[2] Some of the potsherds were similar to those of the Early Metal Age.

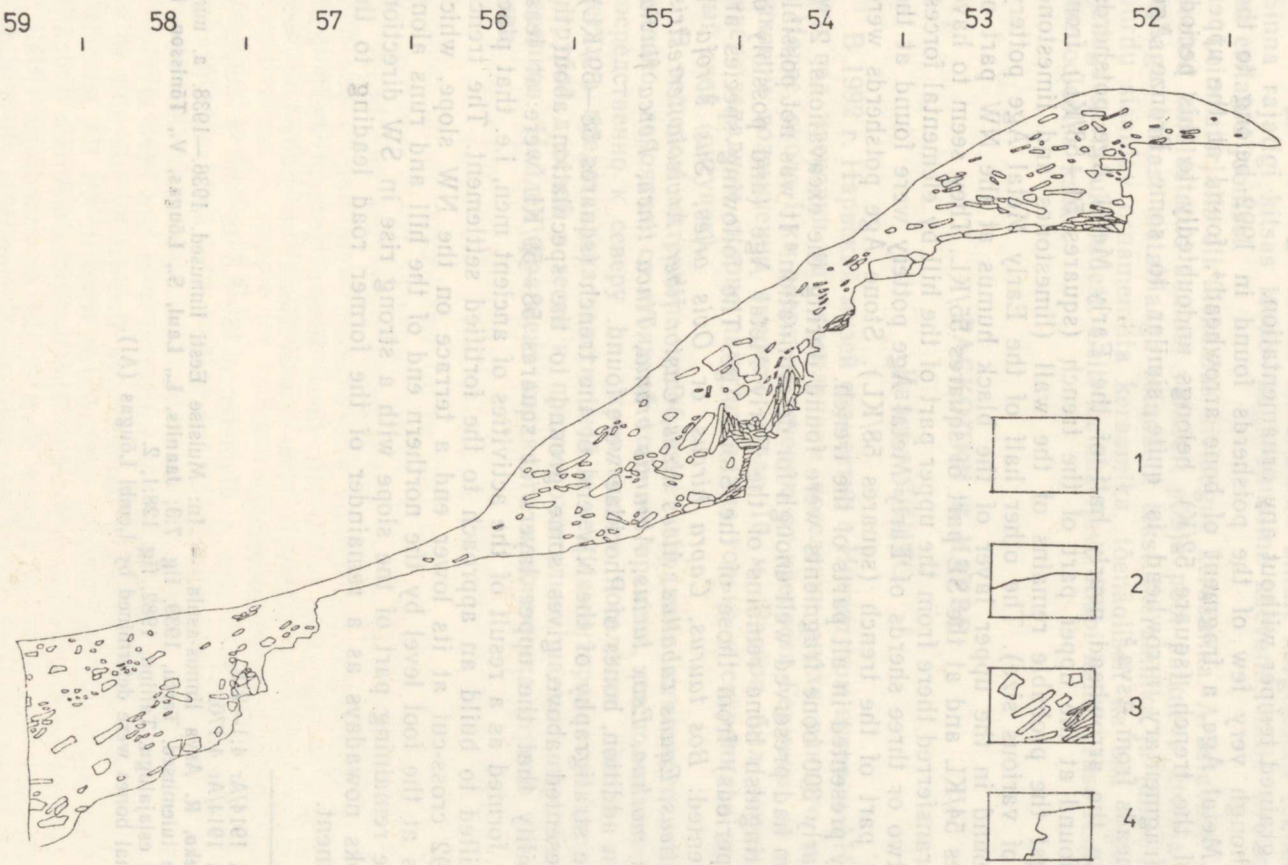
In 1992 a trench of 7.3×1.5 m was dug in NW—SE direction on the NW slope of the hill. In addition, an area of 7×0.8 m (in NW—SE direction) at the upper verge of the NW part of the hill, which presumably contained remains of the wall, was excavated.

The stratigraphy of the trench on the NW slope was as follows (see the Fig.). Under the vegetation cover lay black humus, which contained numerous small pieces of limestone. At 30—40 cm also a large number of bigger limestones (with a diameter of 20—40 cm) were found in squares 53—56/KL. The bedrock was compact limestone, which lay in the form of several terraces. The lower part of humus was in some places brownish (2—5 cm directly over the bedrock, as well as in cleavages of the bedrock). In a couple of places (squares 54/KL and SE part of squares 55/KL; NW part of squares 52/KL) a layer of thin slabs of limestone with yellowish clayey soil between them was discovered at the foot or on the declivity of the limestone terrace.

The stratigraphy of the NW end of the trench (squares 57—59/KL) was somewhat different. The humus layer was very thin (10—15 cm) at the SE part of squares 57/KL and at the NW part of squares 56/KL. Below it lay one of the terraces of limestone. Farther to the NW the bedrock descended again: the thickness of the cultural layer reached 1.20 m at the very end of the trench. The stratigraphy was as follows:

(1) vegetation cover and black humus (20 cm),
(2) slabs of limestone with humus between them (15 cm),
(3) greyish humus (15 cm),
(4) slabs of limestone with greyish humus between them (15 cm),
(5) black humus (25 cm),
(6) black humus with limestone slabs and larger limestones (some of them with a diameter of about 30 cm) with brownish humus between the slabs at the lower part of the layer.

[1] **Янитс Л. Ю.** Поселения эпохи неолита и раннего металла в приустье р. Эмайыги. Таллинн, 1959, fig. 14.
[2] AI 4305:1—13.



Stratigraphy of the trench on the NW slope of the hill. *1* humus, *2* vegetation cover, *3* humus with pieces of limestone, *4* bedrock.

All these layers thinned and ascended in SE direction. They seemed to follow the curve of the former ground, which had probably run between layers 4 and 5.

Archaeological finds[3] were mostly potsherds. The majority of them seem to be Stone Age pottery (no doubt, because of the Stone Age site nearby). Narva ceramics, Typical Comb ceramics, Textile-impressed, and probably Late Corded Ware pottery are represented. Several fragments of pottery are striated. Some sherds seem to belong to the vessels of coarse-grained temper without any ornamentation.

Although very few of the potsherds found in 1992 belong to the Early Metal Age, a fragment of bone arrowhead[4], found at the upper part of the trench (square 52/K), belongs undoubtedly to this period. This fragmentary arrowhead is quite similar to some Bronze Age arrowheads from Asva.[5]

Like the arrowhead nearly half of the Early Metal Age potsherds were found at the upper part of the trench (squares 51—53/KL) from amongst the probable remains of the wall (limestones and limestone slabs of various size). The other half of the Early Metal Age pottery was found in the upper layer of the black humus at the NW part of squares 54/KL and at the SE part of squares 55/KL. They seem to have been transferred there from the upper part of the hill by elemental forces. Only two or three sherds of Early Metal Age pottery were found at the lowest part of the trench (squares 58/KL). Stone Age potsherds were equally presented in all parts of the trench.

Nearly 300 bone fragments were found during the excavations; 21% of them had preserved well enough for determination.[6] It was not possible to distinguish bone remains of the Early Metal Age (and possibly of later periods) from those of the Stone Age. The following species are represented: *Bos taurus*, *Capra hircus* or *Ovis aries*, *Sus scrofa* f. *domesticus*, *Equus caballus*, *Alces alces*, *Castor fiber*, *Arvicola terrestris*, *Gadus morhua*, *Esox lucius*, *Abramis brama*, *Tinca tinca*, *Perca fluviatilis*. In addition, bones of Phocidae were found.

The stratigraphy of the NW end of the trench (squares 58—59/KL), as presented above, gives some ground to the speculation about the possibility that the upper layers at squares 58—59/KL were at least partly formed as a result of the activities of ancient men, i.e. that place was filled to build an approach to the fortified settlement. The trench of 1992 cross-cut at its lower end a terrace on the NW slope, which begins at the foot level by the northern end of the hill and runs along all the remaining part of the slope with a strong rise in SW direction. It looks nowadays as a remainder of the former road leading to the settlement.

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[3] NLM 1914/Ar 4:1—212.

[4] NLM 1914/Ar 4:170.

[5] **Indreko, R.** Asva linnus-asula. — In: Muistse Eesti linnused. 1936.—1938. a. uurimiste tulemused. Tartu, 1939, fig. 7:3; **Jaanits, L., Laul, S., Lõugas, V., Tõnisson, E.** Eesti esiajalugu. Tallinn, 1982, fig. 128:1, 2.

[6] Animal bones were determined by Lembi Lõugas (AI).

KAEVAMISED NARVAS

Kaarel JAANITS

Narva Muuseumi ja Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Ajaloo Instituudi koostöös kaevati varase metalliaja kindlustatud asulat Narvas, umbes 1 km Hermanni kindlusest ülesvoolu, ca 10 m kõrgusel paekünkal, jõe vasakul kaldal. Muistise kultuurkiht oli säilinud ainult kõrgendiku loodenõlval. Sinna rajatigi kitsas loode—kagusuunaline kaevand, mille stratigraafia on esitatud joonisel.

Leiumaterjalis oli ülekaalus kiviaegne keraamika. Arvatavasti on see seotud kindlustatud asulast vahetult põhja pool paikneva kiviaja asulakohaga. Varast metalliaega esindasid tekstiilkeraamika ja jämedat kivipurdu sisaldav ornamendita keraamika, tõenäoliselt ka osa riipimisjälgedega savinõukildudest. Leiti ka ühe Asva tüüpi kolmnurkse ristlõikega luunooleotsa katke.

РАСКОПКИ В НАРВЕ

Каарел ЯНИТС

В 1992 г. Нарвский музей совместно с Институтом истории АН Эстонии вел раскопки на укрепленном поселении эпохи раннего металла в Нарве, около 1 км вверх по течению от крепости Германа, на известняковом возвышении высотой около 10 м. Раскоп был заложен на северо-западном склоне памятника, где только и сохранился культурный слой (рисунок).

В вещевом материале преобладает керамика каменного века, что связано, вероятно, со стоянкой того же времени, расположеннной непосредственно к северу от укрепленного поселения. Эпоха раннего металла представлена текстильной и неорнаментированной керамикой с грубой дресвой в тесте и, предположительно, частью штрихованных черепков. Найден фрагмент костяного наконечника стрелы асваского типа.