

FIELD-WORKS AT JALASE ARCHAEOLOGICAL-ETHNOGRAPHIC RESERVE IN 1990—1992

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In the 1980s, parallel to excavations at the hillfort of Varbola Jaanilinn, 50 km south from Tallinn, an archaeological survey was also carried out in the surroundings to find new archaeological monuments. To the north, west, and east of the hillfort settlement sites (some of them with remains of ancient houses), graves, cult stones, and remains of ancient fields with clearance-heaps and stone fences were discovered.¹

Since 1990 the survey has been continued to the south of Varbola Jaanilinn.² By now more than thirty new monuments from different periods and of different kinds have been discovered there. Most of them are well preserved.

The largest group of archaeological monuments was found at Jalase.³ The village of Jalase is situated about 60 km south-west from Tallinn and about 10 km south-east from Varbola hillfort. Jalase lies on the border of northern and western Estonia, between two ancient provinces — Harjumaa and Läänemaa. The well-preserved ancient planning of Jalase is worthy of attention. It is a typical Estonian row village where farms are situated closely in a compact row parallel to the main road. Several other archaic elements of the village, e.g. the network of streets with stone fences at both sides leading from farms to meadows and the spring, have also preserved well. The spring has always served as a well for the whole village in summer-time when water runs low in ordinary wells.

The first written record about Jalase dates back to 1241. In *Liber Census Daniae* Jalase was mentioned under the name of *Iales* as one of the biggest villages of this region, with 14 ploughlands.⁴

An intensively coal-black layer in the centre of the village covers about 2 ha. The soil contains numerous small cobblestones with a diameter of about 10 to 20 cm, mostly strongly burned. It is most likely that such burned stones belong to the remains of buildings, more exactly to the remains of *keris*-stoves within the houses. As it is known from the archaeological and ethnographical materials, the *keris*-stoves were used at least from the Viking Age up to the beginning of the 19th century without any major changes in their construction.⁵ The upper part of this stove — about one hundred small cobble-stones — had to be substituted several times every year.

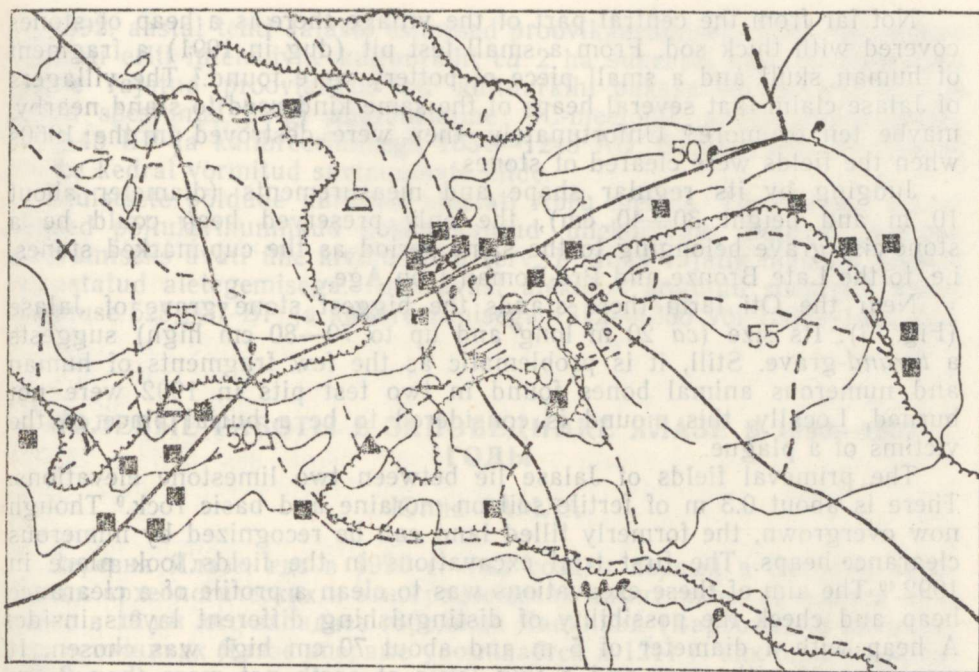
¹ Тамла Ю., Тыниссон Э. Археологические памятники в окрестностях городища Варбола. — Proc. ESSR Acad. Sci. Social Sci., 1984, No. 4, pp. 366—370, Fig. 1.

² Tamla, Ü. Jalase arheoloogilis-etnograafilise kaitseala. — Eesti Arheoloogiaseltsi Teataja, 1991, 1(5), pp. 7—8.

³ Tamla, Ü. Juba muinasajal... — Eesti Loodus, 1991, Nos. 9—10, pp. 565—566; Tamla, Ü. The Hillfort of Varbola Jaanilinn and the Settlement at Jalase. — PACT. 37. Estonia: Nature, Man and Cultural Heritage. Strasbourg, 1992, pp. 145—155.

⁴ Johansen, P. Die Estlandliste des Liber Census Daniae. Kopenhagen—Reval, 1933, p. 382.

⁵ Tõnisson, E. Esiaja ahjud Eestis. — Proc. ESSR Acad. Sci. Social Sci., 1981, No. 1, pp. 43—56.



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Village of Jalase. 1 cult stone, 2 cult stone with cup-marks, 3 stone grave, 4 test pit, 5 intensively coal-black layer, 6 farm, 7 alvar forest, 8 sacred grove, 9 spring, 10 village lane, 11 forest path. The figure was compiled by Ü. Heinsalu.

In addition to small burned cobblestones some small pieces of pottery (some of the pottery had been made by hand, some on potter's wheel) and a large number of animal bones were found.

In several test pits the cultural layer proved to be up to 1 m thick. Such cultural layers are remarkable and quite uncommon in Estonia. At present most of the cultural layer is used as arable land. In 1992 a sample of burned timber found at the bottom of a test pit in the central part of the settlement (Fig.) was dated. The result of the radiocarbon dating was 875 ± 45 BP, or, with calibration 1034–1243 AD.⁶ It is quite possible that the present layout of the village (especially its central part) dates back to the same period, i.e. to the beginning of the 2nd millennium AD.

Four cup-marked stones (Fig.) are the oldest among the archaeological monuments of Jalase. One of them has about 160 marks and it is known by the village people as a stone with "birds' nests". The pits on this stone are of different size and depth. A remarkable feature of the stone is that the pits are very close together and they occur not only on the top of the stone (as usual) but also on all its sides right down to the ground. This stone is one of the most remarkable ones among more than 1560 cult-stones known in Estonia.

⁶ The sample was analysed by Raivo Rajamäe, Institute of Geology, Estonian Academy of Sciences.

Not far from the central part of the village there is a heap of stones covered with thick sod. From a small test pit (dug in 1991) a fragment of human skull and a small piece of pottery were found.⁷ The villagers of Jalase claim that several heaps of the same kind used to stand nearby, maybe ten or more.⁸ Unfortunately, they were destroyed in the 1960s when the fields were cleared of stones.

Judging by its regular shape and measurements (diameter about 10 m and height 30–40 cm), the only preserved heap could be a stone-cist grave belonging to the same period as the cup-marked stones, i.e. to the Late Bronze and Pre-Roman Iron Age.

Near the Oti farm there stands the biggest stone grave of Jalase (Fig., 3). Its size (ca 20 m long and up to 70–80 cm high) suggests a *tarand*-grave. Still, it is problematic as the few fragments of human and numerous animal bones found in two test pits in 1992 were not burned. Locally, this mound is considered to be a burial place of the victims of a plague.

The primeval fields of Jalase lie between two limestone elevations. There is about 0.3 m of fertile soil on moraine and basic rock.⁹ Though now overgrown, the formerly tilled land can be recognized by numerous clearance-heaps. The first trial excavations in the fields took place in 1992.¹⁰ The aim of these excavations was to clean a profile of a clearance heap and check the possibility of distinguishing different layers inside. A heap with a diameter of 5 m and about 70 cm high was chosen. It was covered with moss and a thin layer of earth not more than 3 cm thick. The stones were mostly granite, with only a few limestones among them. Many of the stones were burned or sooty. About 30 cm below the upper level there was a very thin but quite clear layer containing pieces of charcoal. These might be traces of burnt-over clearing in the woods before cultivation. A sample was taken there for radiocarbon dating and analysed in the Institute of Geology, Estonian Academy of Sciences. It was dated to 525±37 BP (after calibration 1312–1350 or 1386–1442 AD).¹¹

Considering the high concentration of ancient monuments at Jalase, the long history of settlement, and its tillage tradition, the first archaeological-ethnographic reserve was established there in the autumn of 1990 and an interdisciplinary research programme has been compiled for the future.

⁷ AI 5981:1, 2.

⁸ Aino Valgma, pers. comm.

⁹ Heinsalu, Ü. Jalase omas maastikus. — Eesti Loodus, 1991, Nos. 9–10, p. 554.

¹⁰ Tamla, Ü. Proovikaevamised Jalase külas 1992. a. suvel. (Manuscript in the Archive of the Institute of History.)

¹¹ Analysed by Raivo Rajamäe.

VÄLITÖÖ JALASE ARHEOLOOGILIS-ETNOGRAAFILISEL KAITSEALAL 1990.—1992. AASTAL

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1990. aastal moodustati Jalase külas arheoloogilis-etnograafilise kaitseala. Esmakordselt on kaitse alla võetud küla kui tervik.

1990.—1992. aastal registreeriti paarkümmend arheoloogiamälestist (joon.). Neist varasemad on väikeselohulised kultusekiivid hilisest pronksiajast või varasest rauaajast. Hilisemad on keskaegsed põldude jää-
nused 14.—15. sajandist.

1992. aastal tehti Jalasel esimesed proovikaevamised. Küla südamikus määrati eriti intensiivne kultuurkiht ca 2 ha suurusel alal. Andrese talu maale rajatud prooviaugus oli kultuurkihi paksus 90 cm; põhjakihist leitud söestunud palgi analüüsimine ¹⁴C-meetodil andis dateeringuks 875±45 BP ja kalibreerimisega 1034—1243 AD. Samast leiti nii käsitsi kui ka kedral vormitud savianumate kilde.

Muistsete põldude uurimist alustati Abru metsas. Tõenäoliselt ei ole siinsed põllukivihunnikud kokku kantud ühekorraga. Põldude vanuse määramiseks avati ühe kivihunniku serv. Põlluks vajalik maa oli algselt puhastatud aletegemisega. Arvatavast alekihist kogutud söeproov andis tulemuse 525±37 BP ja kalibreerimisega 1312—1350 või 1386—1442 AD.

ПОЛЕВЫЕ РАБОТЫ В ЗАПОВЕДНИКЕ ЯЛАЗЕ В 1990—1992 ГОДЫ

Юлле ТАМЛА

Деревня Ялазе, где в 1990 г. был создан первый в Эстонии заповедник археологических и этнографических памятников, находится примерно в 10 км юго-западнее городища Яанилинн (Варбола). В письменных источниках Ялазе впервые упоминается в 1241 г. как одна из крупнейших деревень в окрестности.

На древних землях Ялазе обнаружено около 20 археологических памятников (рисунок) различного типа и времени.

Первые разведочные раскопки были проведены в центре деревни, где насыщенный находками культурный слой мощностью до 1 м охватывал территорию около 2 га. Радиоуглеродный анализ фрагмента бревна с самого низа культурного слоя дал результат 875±45 лет, а с калибровкой временной шкалы — 1034—1243.

Исследование старых полей началось в 1992 г. в лесу Абру с одной кучи камней, собранной при расчистке местности. Обнаруженные под кучей фрагменты угля можно рассматривать как свидетельство подсечного земледелия. Возраст угля, по данным радиоуглеродного определения, 525±37 и с калибровкой — 1312—1350 или 1386—1442.

Исследования в Ялазе продолжаются.