

STONE GRAVE II OF TÕUGU AND SOME REMAINS OF PREHISTORIC LAND USE IN NORTH ESTONIA

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1. COMPLETION OF EXCAVATIONS AT STONE GRAVE II OF TÕUGU

Archaeological excavations at stone grave II of Tõugu, started in 1993 (Lang, 1994), were finished in 1995. During 1993–94, a large *tarand*-like construction (IIB) was revealed. A stone-cist grave (IIA) was surprisingly discovered beneath it (Fig. 1; Plate IV, 1). The stone cist of this older grave IIA contained a cremation burial together with a quartz implement, and was supposed to date from the Late Bronze Age (Lang, 1995).

The lowermost stone layer of grave IIA around the cist (Fig. 1; Plate IV, 1) was finally removed in 1995. The soil under the grave stones contained small pieces of charcoal, which were gathered for a radiocarbon sample. The result of the dating of this sample asserts the Late Bronze Age date supposed before: 2583 ± 65 BP (Tln-2003). A nest of charcoal, probably remains of a wooden post or stake, was found outside and immediately by the side of the stone circle of grave IIA, under the stones of the later *tarand*-wall. This charcoal (post) was also dated to the Late Bronze Age, being probably contemporary with the stone-cist grave: 2490 ± 56 BP (Tln-2015). The average calibrated age of the stone-cist grave (IIA) by these two radiocarbon dates is 800–560 BC.

The western part (IIC) of the stone grave (c. 160 m²) was totally excavated in 1995. The stone cover of grave IIC was relatively well preserved, except two places where stones had been moved and a fire built already in earlier times. Between and under the uppermost stones of the grave some nests of weakly burned human bones were found indicating secondary burials. Some small potsherds and an iron sickle-knife (Fig. 2, 1) discovered in the southwestern peripheral area may belong to these burials, dating them probably either to the Late Pre-Roman or Early Roman Iron Age (Laul & Tõnisson, 1991, pp. 77–78, Figs. 1–3).

Altogether five *tarands* (rectangular enclosures) connected to one another in a straight row were discovered by the excavations of grave IIC (Fig. 1; Plate V, 2). It became evident that these five relatively small *tarands* were not connected with the large *tarand* (IIB), investigated in 1993–94. This means that we have here separate graves. The *tarand*-walls of grave IIC were usually erected of limestone slabs, but some of them had granite stones in the foundation. *Tarand* No. 2 had been built first, because both its long walls were directed outward by their straight sides (Plate V, 1, left). The *tarands* erected later side by side with the earlier one (No. 1 to the WSW and Nos. 3–5 to the ENE of it) had only one long wall with the outer straight side. All the original inhumation burials observed in the grave were located in the NNW–SSE direction.

Tarand No. 1 was the westernmost of all *tarands*. It had a double western wall with granite stones in its foundation (Plate V, 1, right). This double wall was

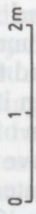
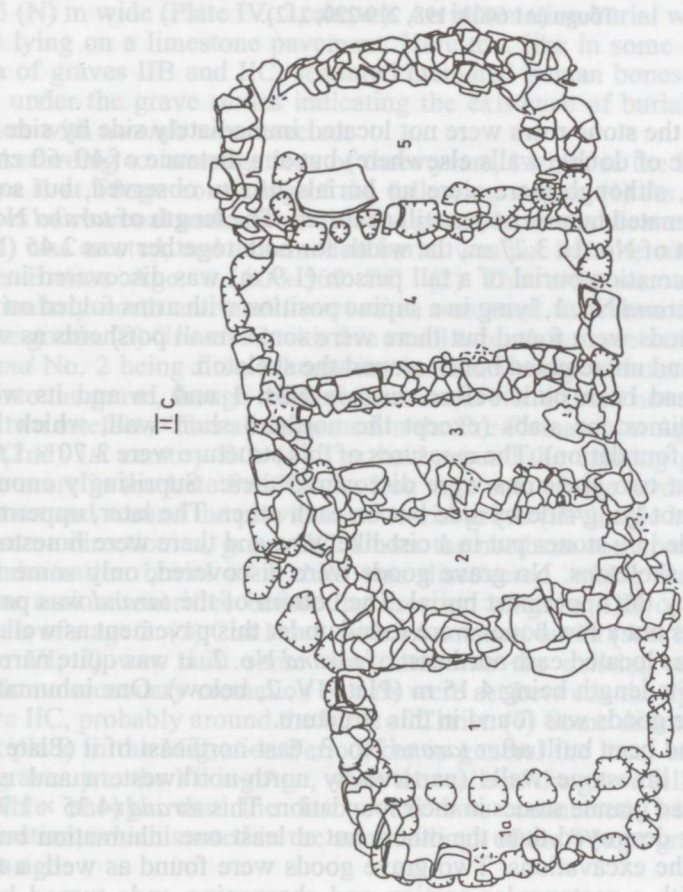
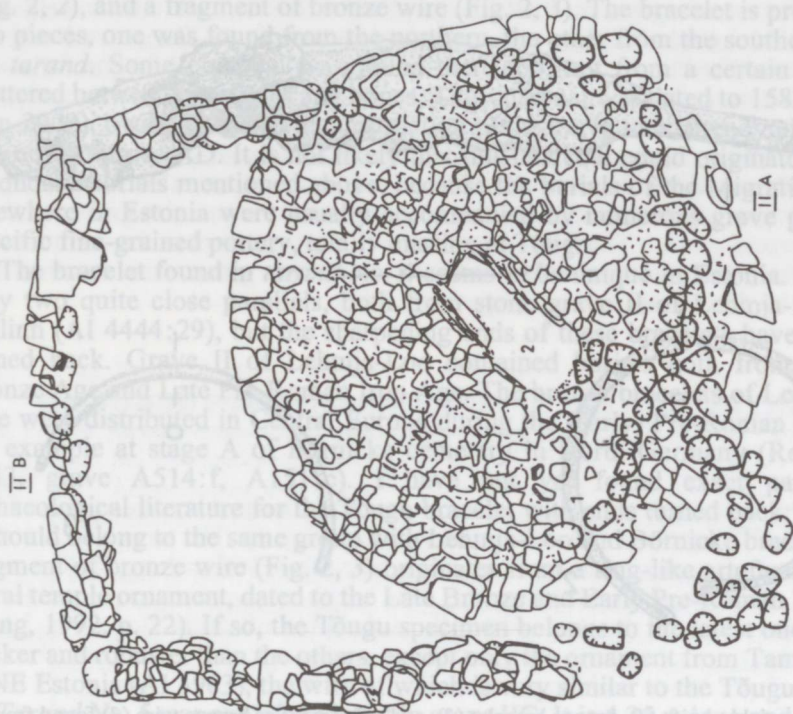


Fig. 1. Constructions of stone grave II at Tôgu.

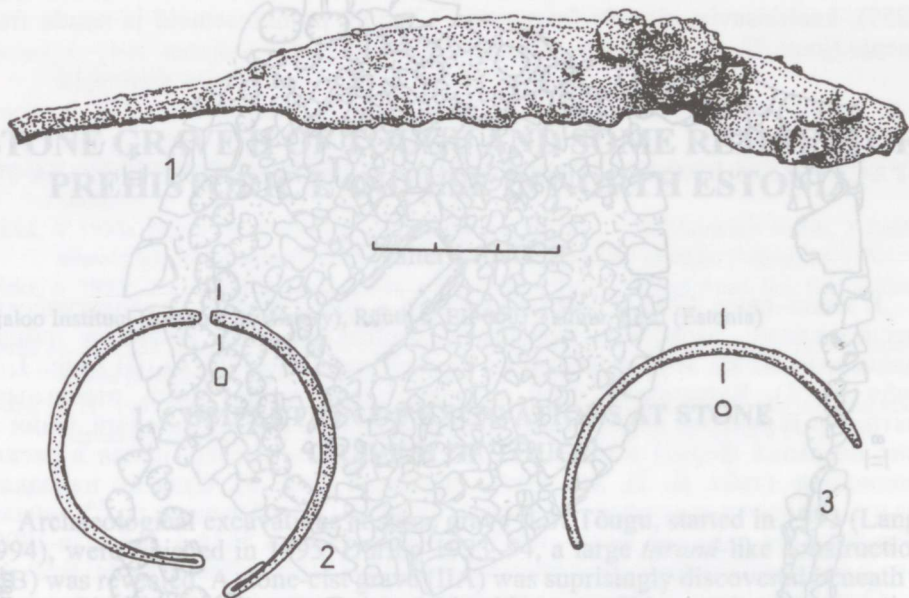


Fig. 2. Iron sickle-knife (1), bronze bracelet (2), and a fragment of bronze wire (3) found from Tōgu (AI 6003: 198, 210/220, 212).

interesting because the stone rows were not located immediately side by side (as it is common in case of double walls elsewhere) but at a distance of 40–60 cm. I called it *tarand 1a*, although there were no burials *in situ* observed, but some cremated and uncremated human bones still occurred. The length of *tarand* No. 1 was 3.75 m and that of No. 1a 3.27 m, the width for both together was 2.45 (N)–2.55 (S) m. An inhumation burial of a tall person (1.9 m) was discovered in the eastern portion of *tarand* No. 1, lying in a supine position with arms folded on the breast. No grave goods were found but there were some small potsherds as well as a few cremated and uncremated bones around the skeleton.

Tarand No. 2 had been built before *tarands* Nos. 1 and 1a and its walls consisted only of limestone slabs (except the northern short wall, which had granite stones in its foundation). The measures of this structure were 3.70 × 1.95–2.25 m, and at least two skeletons were discovered there. Surprisingly enough, these burials were not lying side by side but on each other. The later, uppermost burial was surrounded by stones put in a cist-like way, and there were limestones between these two skeletons. No grave goods were discovered, only some fish bones were found by the uppermost burial. The bottom of the *tarand* was paved with limestone slabs but a few bones were found under this pavement as well.

Tarand No. 3 was located east-northeast of *tarand* No. 2. It was quite narrow, only 1.06–1.20 m, its length being 4.15 m (Plate IV, 2, below). One inhumation burial without grave goods was found in this structure.

Tarand No. 4 had been built after *tarand* No. 3, east-northeast of it (Plate IV, 2, middle). All its limestone walls (particularly north-northwestern and east-northeastern ones) had granite stones in their foundation. This *tarand* (4.35 × 1.7 m) was more seriously destroyed than the others but at least one inhumation burial was found during the excavations. Two grave goods were found as well: a thin bronze bracelet with a rectangular section and sharpening ends turned back

(Fig. 2, 2), and a fragment of bronze wire (Fig. 2, 3). The bracelet is preserved in two pieces, one was found from the northern, the other from the southern part of the *tarand*. Some charcoal was found there too, not from a certain layer but scattered between the stones and bones. This charcoal was dated to 1582 ± 46 BP (Tln-2002), owing to which the destruction of the grave took already place in the 5th–6th centuries AD. It is not likely that this charcoal could originate from the secondary burials mentioned above, because the burials of the Migration Period elsewhere in Estonia were usually accompanied by numerous grave goods and specific fine-grained pottery, totally missing at Tõugu.

The bracelet found in *tarand* No. 4 seems to be unique in Estonia. There are only two quite close parallels, both from stone grave II of Lehmja-Loo, near Tallinn (AI 4444:29), but the sharpening ends of these bracelets have not been turned back. Grave II of Lehmja-Loo contained burials both from the Late Bronze Age and Late Pre-Roman Iron Age. The bronze bracelets of Lehmja-Loo type were distributed in Central Europe during the (early) Pre-Roman Iron Age, for example at stage A of Börnicke cemetery in North Germany (Reinbacher, 1963, grave A514:f, A151:c). I have not yet found exact parallels in archaeological literature for the Tõugu bracelet with ends turned back; however, it should belong to the same group with Lehmja-Loo and Börnicke bracelets. The fragment of bronze wire (Fig. 2, 3) originates from a ring-like artefact, maybe a spiral temple ornament, dated to the Late Bronze and Early Pre-Roman Iron Ages (Lang, 1992, p. 22). If so, the Tõugu specimen belongs to the latest ones, as it is thicker and robuster than the others, except only the ornament from Tamme grave in NE Estonia (AI 3963), the wire of which is very similar to the Tõugu one.

Tarand No. 5 was one of the latest in grave IIC. It is 4.35 m long and 1.75 (S)–1.85 (N) m wide (Plate IV, 2, above). An inhumation burial without grave goods was lying on a limestone pavement. Here too, like in some other places in the area of graves IIB and IIC, scattered cremated human bones were found in the soil under the grave stones indicating the existence of burials before the stone graves with *tarands* were erected.

According to investigations of three years, I suppose the building process of grave II at Tõugu consisting of the following stages. (1) As indicated by small pieces of charcoal under the stone-cist grave, land was cleaned by fire, the grave (IIA) was erected, and a cremation burial was put into the cist. It occurred in the Late Bronze Age, c. 800–560 BC. (2) The area surrounding grave IIA, particularly north and north-west of it, was used for cremation burials without grave goods. (3) Grave IIC with five small *tarands* was erected west of grave IIA, *tarand* No. 2 being first. Inhumation burials, mostly without grave goods, were set into the grave, though the burial in *tarand* No. 4 (built not earlier than thirdly) had two artefacts. This all happened in the Pre-Roman Iron Age, probably before the (2nd) 1st century BC. (4) The land around the existing graves was burned once more in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and a large *tarand*-grave (IIB) was built on and around the previous stone-cist grave (IIA), side by side with, and in the same direction as, grave IIC. Under the northern corner-stone of this *tarand* an inhumation burial of a child was discovered, which was connected with either a ritual sacrifice before the erection of grave IIB or other (cremation) burials of stage 2. (5) Cist No. 1 with inhumation burial (see: Lang, 1994, p. 383, Plate VI, 2) was built some time later into the existing *tarand*-grave (IIB). (6) Some secondary cremation burials were set between the uppermost stones of grave IIC, probably around the birth of Christ. (7) Some disturbance of the grave took place in the Migration Period, but in general the local society took care of the grave up to the Viking Age, when the walls of the grave fell finally down. It is possible enough that the last event was connected with slash-and-burn cultivation, which started in the surroundings of the Tõugu graves c. 1000–1200 years ago.

In this way, stone grave II of Tõugu demonstrates an extraordinarily long history of local grave-building and mythological traditions. The grave itself was built and used for burying during seven to eight centuries, and for the following ten centuries or so it was looked after by the local community. Shortage of grave goods was striking, particularly when keeping in mind the richness of the *tarand*-grave at Võhma Tandemäe, also belonging to the Pre-Roman Iron Age and located only at a distance of 1.3 km. Here, at Tõugu, we can also see something like a dialogue of two competitive ideologies, one of stone-cist graves and the other of *tarand*-graves. The latter got a decisive dominance over the former at the end of the grave-building when the old stone-cist grave was covered and embraced by the extraordinarily large *tarand*.

2. INVESTIGATION OF FIELD REMAINS AT TÕUGU AND VÕHMA TANDEMÄE

In 1995, a trench was excavated in a stony baulk, located between graves II–III and V–VI of Tõugu (see the map in Lang, 1995, Fig. 1). The trench (6 × 1.5 m) was made close to the northern end of this more than 100 m long, 4–5 m wide, and up to 50 cm high baulk (Plate VI). The width of the stone cover under the turf, i.e. the width of the original baulk in the time of cultivation, was 3.6 m. Between the stones (only limestone slabs) a surprisingly large number (for field remains) of potsherds and bones were found. Altogether 15 sherds (AI 6067) originate from pots made of fine-grained temper and having smoothed and polished surfaces, characteristic of the Viking and Late Iron Ages (8th–12th centuries). All the bones (95 fragments) belonged to domestic animals, i.e. cattle, *Bos taurus* (at least two individuals), and sheep/goat, *Capra hircus/Ovis aries* (one) (analysed by Liina Maldre). Under the lowermost stones of the baulk, small pieces of charcoal were found, originating from the first slash-and-burn. This charcoal was dated to 954 ± 85 BP (TIn-2007), i.e. to the 11th–12th centuries according to calibration. So, the radiocarbon date got from the soil and charcoal layer under the lowermost stones of the baulk is in good accordance with the age of the pottery found from the baulk.

The remains of prehistoric land use at Võhma Tandemäe consist of clearance cairns and long baulks originating from strip fields. The first clearance cairn was investigated here in 1994, and a radiocarbon date of 1200 ± 100 BP (BGS-1733) was achieved (Lang, 1995). In 1995, a trench (4.7 × 1.45 m) was excavated in one of the few baulks preserved up to today (Plate VII), the others were completely destroyed in the course of land reclamation during kolkhoz time. The baulk consisted mostly of granite stones like the local clearance cairns, the width of the original stone cover here was 2.9 m. Only one small fragment of bone and some pieces of quartz were found from between the stones. Under the lowermost stones of the baulk there was a soil and charcoal layer on the limestone bedrock, which was radiocarbon dated to 1339 ± 39 BP (TIn-2006). In this way, intensive cultivation in the form of strip fields started at Võhma – according to the calibration of two radiocarbon dates – in the second part of the 7th or in the 8th century AD, i.e. slightly earlier than in the neighbouring village of Tõugu.

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TÕUGU II KALME JA MÕNED MUISTSED PÖLLUJÄÄNED PÕHJA-EESTIS

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Lõpetati 1993. aastal alustatud Tõugu II kivist kalme väljakaevamine (joon. 1, tahv. IV–V). Vanimaks kalmeosaks osutus kivist kalmekalme (IIA), mis kahe kalibreeritud ^{14}C -dateeringu alusel rajati hilispronksiajal (u. 800–560 e.Kr.). Sellest kalmest põhja ja lääne pool leiti tarandite alt panusteta põletusmatuseid. Eelruuma rauaajal on ehitatud viiest tarandist koosnev kalme IIC, kuhu surnud maeti põletamata ja enamasti ilma panusteta (üksnes 4. tarandist saadi harvaesinev käevõru ja pronkstraadi tükk; joon. 2, 2, 3). Hiljem, nähtavasti eelruuma rauaaja lõpusajanditel, on rajatud kalme IIC kõrvale ja kivist kalmekalme IIA peale suur tarand IIB, kuhu veelgi hiljem on ehitatud raudkividest kirst. Ajaarvamise vahetuse paiku oli kalme IIC pindmisesse kihtidesse maetud paar põletusmatust, millega võis kalmesse sattuda sirpnuga (joon. 2, 1). Kalmet oli mõnevõrra lõhutatud juba rahvasterännuajal, kuid selle müürid vajasid lõplikult maha alles nooremal rauaajal.

Jätkati ka muistsete maakasutussüsteemide uurimist ümbruskonnas. Tõugul kaevati tranšee ühte pikka peenraste (tahv. VI), mille kivide vahelt saadi üsna arvukalt nii noorema rauaaja keraamikat kui ka veise ja lamba/kitse luid. Peenrakivide alt leiti esmasest aletamisest pärinevat sütt, mis dateeriti 11.–12. sajandisse (954 ± 85 a.t.). Ka Võhmal uuriti tranšeeaga ühte pikka, ribapõldudest pärinevat peenart (tahv. VII), mis ^{14}C -meetodil dateeriti 7.–8. sajandisse (1339 ± 39 a.t.).

ВТОРОЙ МОГИЛЬНИК В ТЫГУУ И ОСТАТКИ ДРЕВНИХ ПОЛЕЙ В СЕВЕРНОЙ ЭСТОНИИ

Вальтер ЛАНГ

Завершены раскопки каменного могильника в Тыгуу, начатые в 1993 г. (рис. 1; табл. IV–V). Наиболее древним оказался могильник с ящиком (IIA), который, судя по двум калиброванным радиоуглеродным датировкам, был основан в эпоху поздней бронзы (800–560 гг. до Р. Х.). Севернее и западнее этого могильника найдено несколько подоградочных безынвентарных трупосожжений. В период доримского железа был основан могильник с пятью оградками (IIC), где находились в основном безынвентарные труположения (только в четвертой оградке обнаружены браслет и фрагмент бронзового предмета – рис. 2, 2, 3). В конце периода доримского железа над каменным могильником с ящиком была сооружена большая оградка (IIB), где позднее построен ящик из валунов. В начале н.э. в могильнике IC были совершены вторичные захоронения, с которыми связан, видимо, серповидный нож (рис. 2, 1). Могильник в Тыгуу был разрушен уже в 5–6 вв., но стенки оградок развалились только после эпохи викингов.

Было продолжено также изучение древних полей в окрестностях могильника. Траншеями исследованы длинные межи в Тыгуу и Выхма (табл. VI–VII). В Тыгуу обнаружено довольно много керамики эпохи позднего железа, а также костей домашних животных. Радиоуглеродным анализом эти межи датируются соответственно 954 ± 85 и 1339 ± 39 лет т. н.