

# INVENTORIES IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF LAKE KAHALA AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS ON THE FOSSIL FIELD REMAINS AT SOORINNA AND MUUKSI

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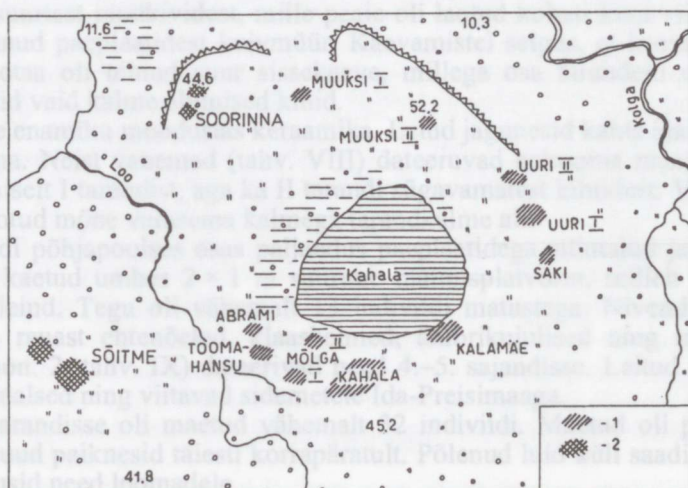
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## 1. INVENTORIES

An archaeological inventory was carried out in the surroundings of Lake Kahala, Kuusalu parish, during which many new prehistoric and medieval settlement sites and a complex of fossil fields were discovered (Vedru, 1995a).

A Stone Age settlement site was found on the land of Saki farm (Fig.) in the village of Uuri. Numerous pieces of quartz with traces of processing were the only finds gathered from the surface of the cultural layer of this site (AI 6035). From a field of Pulga farm in the same village, numerous finds characteristic of the medieval settlements were picked up (AI 6034). These were potsherds (stoneware, glazed ware, and vessels with smoothed surfaces), slags, a horseshoe nail, a heel iron, and a sherd from a cast-iron cauldron.

Sherds of quartz, probably originating from the Stone Age, and potsherds from both the Late Iron Age and the Middle Ages were found on the land of Abrami farm in the village of Kahala (AI 6025).



Sites in the surroundings of Lake Kahala inventoried and discovered in 1995. 1 settlement site, 2 remains of fields.

The previously known settlement site of Kahala, dated to the Late Iron Age and the Middle Ages, was looked over and the borders of its cultural layer were fixed. This settlement was found to be remarkably larger than assumed earlier. One more settlement site was found on the territory of the village of Kahala, on the lands of Mõlga farm. Some pieces of worked quartz and a Late Iron Age potsherd were found from the Mõlga settlement site (AI 6027). Fragments of Late Iron Age clay vessels and sherds of grey flint and quartz of the Stone Age were picked up from the field belonging to the farm of Tooma-Hansu (AI 6028).

The inventory of the previously known settlement site situated on the land of Hiie farm in the village of Kalamäe yielded a number of potsherds (AI 6029) dated from the Viking Age to the Middle Ages (incl.). From the settlement known earlier in the village of Muuksi (Muuksi I), a large number of slags, mostly medieval ceramics, and a blue bead were found (AI 6033). In addition to these, a rimsherd of a Corded Ware vessel was discovered, indicating the Late Stone Age habitation at this site. On the field of Kembari farm in the vicinity of the bus stop of Muuksi one more settlement site (Muuksi II) was found. Numerous potsherds belonging to both the Bronze Age and the Middle Ages were found (AI 6030). Remains of fossil fields, first of all clearance cairns, were discovered in an area of a few hectares in the village of Sõitme, on both sides of the Kuusalu–Leesi road. They may belong either to the end of the prehistoric era or to the Middle Ages.

## 2. EXCAVATIONS

Archaeological excavations of fossil field remains were carried out in two localities, at Soorinna and Muuksi (Vedru, 1995b).

The stone-cist graves and fossil field remains of Soorinna are located in two groups 2–3 km NE of the village of Loo (Fig.). The landscape here is typical of North Estonia: there are large alvar areas (called *loo* in Estonian) with an extremely thin soil cover on the limestone bedrock and junipers dominating in vegetation. One clearance cairn and one baulk of group II at Soorinna were investigated by a trench. The baulk consisting of stones was of WSW–ESE direction and the trench (4 × 1 m) was dug across it (Plate X, 1). The first layer of stones under the turf cover consisted of limestone slabs with dimensions of 20–30 cm. Beneath these stones there was a 10–15 cm thick soil layer containing some small pieces of limestone. Charcoal was missing both in this soil layer and on the natural limestone bedrock (Plate XI, 1). No finds were observed during the excavation, except a few small pieces of modern brick from different parts and layers of the trench. This baulk seems to be a result of relatively modern cultivation in the area of Soorinna.

Another trench (230 × 160 cm) was dug into the southeastern part of the clearance cairn located *c.* 700 m north of the excavated baulk. The cairn resembles a small stone grave with a diameter of 5 m and a height of 0.5 m. The cairn consisted of limestone slabs and a few granite stones (Plate X, 2). The soil between the stones was extremely black. Some charcoal was found under the lowermost stones of the heap but in insufficient quantity for radiocarbon analysis. The only find was a piece of grey flint (AI 6087).

Archaeological excavations were also carried out at a clearance cairn field discovered in the meadow of Toomani farm in the village of Muuksi. Two low clearance cairns totally covered with turf and situated *c.* 200–300 m north-east of the stone-cist graves known as Hundikangrud, were uncovered.

The diameter of one of them was 5–6 m and the height 15–25 cm. The first stone layer consisted of limestone slabs of different size, the biggest of them having a diameter of 40–50 cm. The limestones in the second layer were notably

smaller (20–25 cm) than the uppermost ones (Plate XII, 1). The soil layer between the stones and the limestone bedrock was *c.* 10 cm thick and it contained small pieces of charcoal. This charcoal was radiocarbon dated to  $855 \pm 104$  BP (Tln-1977).

A dozen of sherds of hand-made pottery, probably originating from the Late Iron Age, and some animal bones were also found during the excavations.

Another clearance cairn excavated in 1995 was situated *c.* 130 m north-east of the former. It had a diameter of 5–5.5 m, the height being up to 40 cm. The southern and western sides of the heap were steep, while both the northern and eastern sides were gently sloping. Only the western half of this clearance cairn was investigated.

The two uppermost layers of stones consisted of limestones measuring 10–25 cm, the biggest of them lying on the southern and western edges of the excavation area (Plate XII, 2). In the third layer of stones there were soil patches without stones. The biggest stones, which were 20–40 cm in diameter, were mostly lying in the central part of the heap. Between the lowermost stones of the cairn and the natural limestone bedrock there was a 10–12 cm thick soil layer containing much charcoal. Some charcoal was also observed between the second and third layers of stones. In addition to that, half a dozen potsherds from the Late Iron Age, some fish scales, fish bones, and animal bones were found. The sample of charcoal from between the second and third layers of stones was radiocarbon dated to  $500 \pm 35$  BP (Tln-2011), while the sample from between the lowermost stones and bedrock belonged to  $686 \pm 42$  BP (Tln-2012).

## REFERENCES

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## ARHEOLOOGILINE INSPEKTSIOON KAHALA JÄRVE ÜMBRUSES NING VÄLJAKAEVAMISED SOORINNA JA MUUKSI FOSSILSETEL PÕLDUDEL

Gurly VEDRU

1995. aastal taasalustati arheoloogilisi uurimisi Kuusalu kihelkonnas Kahala järve ümbruses. Avastati kuus uut asulakohta ning muinaspõldude jäänused (joonis).

Arheoloogilisi kaevamisi tehti Soorinna ja Muuksi fossilsetel põldudel. Soorinnal tranšeeaga uuritud põllupeenras (tahv. X, 1; XI, 1) puudus peenrakivide ja paepõhja vahelises mullakihis süsi täielikult. Põllukivihunnikust (tahv. X, 2; XI, 2) saadud söe kogus oli aga liiga väike  $^{14}\text{C}$ -analüüsi tegemiseks.

Muuksi külas kaevati kahte Hundikangrutest paarisaja meetri kaugusele jäävat põllukivihunnikut (tahv. XII). Ühest saadi kümmekond tõenäoliselt hilisraua-aegset savinõukildu ning alumiste kivide alt söeproov, mis dateeriti  $855 \pm 104$  a.t. Ka teisest, vaid osaliselt läbikaevatud põllukivihunnikust leiti esimesega sama-aegset keraamikat ning kala- ja loomaluid. Teise ja kolmanda kivikihi vahelt võetud söeproov dateeriti  $500 \pm 35$  ja alumiste kivide alt saadud proov  $686 \pm 42$  a.t.

# ИНСПЕКЦИЯ ОКРЕСТНОСТЕЙ ОЗЕРА КАХАЛА И АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ РАСКОПКИ ДРЕВНИХ ПОЛЕЙ В СООРИННА И МУУКСИ

Гурли ВЕДРУ

В 1995 г. были возобновлены археологические исследования в приходе Куусалу. В ходе инспекции окрестностей оз. Кахала обнаружены шесть новых поселений и древние поля (рисунок).

Археологические раскопки произведены в деревнях Сооринна и Муукси. В Сооринна траншеями исследованы одна межа и одна каменная куча (табл. X, XI). В меже угля не оказалось, а в каменной куче его было слишком мало для  $^{14}\text{C}$ -анализа.

В Муукси исследованы две кучи камней (табл. XII). Их возраст, согласно  $^{14}\text{C}$ -анализу проб угля,  $855 \pm 104$  и  $686 \pm 42$  года т. н. соответственно.



The other excavation (Plate XIII, 1; finds: TU 319) was made in the eastern part of the settlement, on the lower part of the slope, near the steep shore of the lake. The site was first mentioned in the description of Kauppi's archaeological survey (Raid, 1921, pp. 39-41; Laga, 1923, pp. 4-5) as a small settlement situated on a hillside that they should belong to the settlement site.