ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AROUND TÕNIJA AND RÕÖSA ON SOUTHERN SAAREMAA

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Archaeological excavations at Tõnija Tuulingumäe site complex, started in 1995, were finished in summer 2001. During the excavations in 2001, an earlier cult site beneath the pre-Roman Iron Age cult site platform with pits (see Mägi 2001) was unearthed. Excavations at Tõnija were carried out with a group of Swedish amateur archaeologists the group, by the Museum of Saaremaa.

The Tuulingumäe was constructed after the earlier surroundings for building.

The area of the excavations was surrounded by stones. sherds were found in the natural ground, car of most of the depressions bigger than the other was pit No. 10. One of the depressions a fist-sized stone. The pit No. 2 50 cm was unearthed by stoners between the depressions and a tooth uncovered in the same year (Mägi 2001). The depressions were big wooden pillar construction (Fig. 3). The position of the wooden pillar no. 2 terner post when the stone. The position of the

Fig. 1. The complex of monuments at Tõnija Tuulingumäe. 1 - depressions; 2 - granite stones of the earlier cult site; 3 - limestone of the later cult site; 4 - construction stones of the later cult site and tarand grave.

Joon. 1. Tõnija Tuulingumäe muististekompleks. 1 - loobud; 2 - varasema kultuskoba seotud raakivid; 3 - varasema kultuskoba seotud paekivid; 4 - hilisema kultuskoba ja tarandkalme konstruktstoniga seotud kivid.
The area of the excavations in 2001 was approximately 135 m² but in most places the digs embraced only one layer of small limestones on top of the natural ground. The natural ground consisted of rammed earthen moraine and shingle, with few limestone slabs in it (Fig. 1). Drawing parallels with gravel floors in historical buildings on Saaremaa and Muhu, recorded up to the beginning of the 20th century (Rulling 2001, 414-415), a ground similar to these may have been formed here intentionally. Several horizontal limestone slabs were uncovered under the later stone platform at the eastern side of the excavations, where they seemed to be remains of a pavement.

Next to pit No. 2 of the stone platform a probable hearth with a diameter of 50 cm was unearthed on the natural ground. The fireplace was semicircularly surrounded by stones of medium size. Only a few bone fragments and small potsherds were found here. Seven circular or slightly oval depressions, dug into the natural ground, can be connected with the earlier cult site (Fig. 2). The diameter of most of the depressions was 80-120 cm, the depth about 20 cm. Somewhat bigger than the others (measuring 145 x 110 cm) and much deeper (up to 1 m) was pit No. 10. One of the depressions (No. 12) in the corner between the tarands I and II of the Roman period grave had been found already in 1995. The bottoms of the depressions were covered with stones of medium size or with badly burnt fist-sized stones. On the very bottom of the depression No. 6 small bone fragments and a tooth of a child were found. These depressions differed from the pits uncovered in the stone platform during the excavations in 1999 and 2000 (Mägi 2001). The depressions of the earlier cult site were most likely dug for erecting big wooden pillars, and were, therefore, marked with tree stocks in the reconstruction (Fig. 3). The pillar in the depression No. 12 was obviously used as a corner post when the tarand II had been erected, as the tarand lacked the corner stone. The position of the depressions was quite irregular. Very big granite boulders between the later tarand grave and the present road also formed a part of
Fig. 2. The earlier cult site at Tśaulingumāe, with the remains of the later cult site. The depressions Nos 7 and 8.
Joon. 2. Tuulingumāe vanusem kultuskoba koos hilisema kultuskoba jäänustega. Lohud nr. 7 ja 8.

Fig. 3. The reconstruction of the complex of monuments at Tuulingumāe.
Joon. 3. Tuulingumāe muistisde kompleksi rekonstruktsoon.

the construction of stones between them, a big horizontal line earthed.

There were only a sm"ller cult site. Some of the Roman Iron Age, more belongs to the same constructing it, as in lars.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGY

The area around the wetlands in the east, great part of the area with toric stone graves and earlier Tōnnijōgi, flow development of the main reason why more agriculture can be rec

Lepna Katkuauk ("Limestone local people to have 40 cm high mound m of about 5 m and a 6 was considered to be 2000, when some unit re-study of the site in away from it were fou ble cemetery. Three s depth of 25 cm, und dated to the 6th-7th ce 198; Tamla & Jaanits same period.

Paemōis ("Limestone preceding the Rōös
the construction of the earlier cult site, as indicated by a layer of smaller limestones between them and the natural ground. On the same line with the boulders a big horizontal limestone, perhaps marking some kind of entrance, was unearthed.

There were only a small number of finds and animal bones in the layer of the earlier cult site. Some of the decorated potsherds found can be dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age, most likely to the first half of it. The earlier cult site probably belongs to the same period. Quite extensive efforts may have been involved in constructing it, as indicated by the huge granite boulders and thick wooden pillars.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE TUULINGUMÄE COMPLEX

The area around the present villages Tönija, Pöllu and Röösa is surrounded by wetlands in the east, north and west, and by seacoast in the south. Presently, a great part of the area is stony pasture with junipers, where a number of prehistoric stone graves and remains of fossil fields can be found. The River Maadevahe, earlier Tönnijõgi, flows through the Tönija-Röösa area. There was only small-scale development of the landscape during the Soviet times, which is obviously the main reason why more archaeological sites than in most regions with intensive agriculture can be recorded here.

Lepna Katkuauk ("Lepna Pest Hole") in deserted Lepna village is believed by the local people to have been a burial ground during the Great Plague. It is about a 40 cm high mound measuring 18 x 16 m. There is a depression with a diameter of about 5 m and a depth of about 50 cm in the centre of the mound. The site was considered to be a medieval village cemetery after the first inspection in 2000, when some unburnt human bones were recovered in a trial pit. During the re-study of the site in 2001, a small cache of weapons and a belt buckle 1.5 m away from it were found (Fig. 4), using a metal detector at the edge of the probable cemetery. Three spearheads and a long knife were unearthed together at a depth of 25 cm, under a dense layer of small limestone slabs. All finds can be dated to the 6th-7th century (for comparison see e.g. Nerman 1969, Pls. 64, 141, 198; Tamla & Jaanits 1977, Figs. 1, 3, 5), and the grave obviously belongs to the same period.

Paemõis ("Limestone Manor") is known in local tradition as the site of a manor preceding the Röösa manor. The site is situated about 100 m away from the
Maadevahe River, beside a wet area that perhaps had been part of the river some time in the past. It is about a 120-m-long and 30-m-wide ridge with steep western slope and a low wall on the eastern side. The wall is 2.5 m wide and about 40 cm high. A terrace of about 50 x 15 m was detected in the northern part of the ridge. In trial pits dug into the terrace, a crossbow brooch and a belt buckle, both belonging to the 5th-6th century (for comparison see e.g. Tamla & Jaanits 1977, Pl. 10:2), were found (Fig. 6: 2). The site can be defined as a Migration Period fortified manor or principal’s farmstead. Similar fortified magnate farms are known from 4th-5th century Sweden (e.g. Olausson 1987).

Tõnija Kuninga haud (“Grave of the King” at Tõnija) that is believed to have formed a part of a holy grove is now situated in the village gathering place around a large swing and a volleyball court. The rectangular construction of the holy grove can be seen on an old map (Fig. 5) but is partly demolished by now. The “Grave of the King” is about a 60-cm-high oval mound with diameters of 16 and 12 m. The grave is surrounded by very big granite boulders (with diameters of 1.5–2 m); more of these boulders stand northwards of the grave. In the trial pit in the centre of the grave, bronze edging and rod chain network fragments of a 10th–12th century knife sheath came to light (Fig. 6: 1). According to some earlier data, a 10th–11th century scabbard end, a bronze ring, a bronze bell, an iron knife and bronze spirals have been found at the same site (SMM 1924, 119).

Kuru saat (“Kuru field”) is situated 120 m southeast of the later Rõosa manor, on a slope beside a bog. The bog, called Kurepsoo laht (“Kurepsoo Bay”) by local people, lies about 4.5 m above the present sea level, and had formed a sea bay in prehistory. According to the local tradition, another manor had been situated
Archeological fieldwork around Töö and Rōosa on Southern Samma

Fig. 5. Töö-Rōosa area. Re-drawn from the map of 1873. (The Estonian Historical Archives F. 3724, I. 5, D. 2492.)

Joon 5. Töö-Rōosa ümbruskond. Ümber joonistatud 1873. aasta kaardilt (Eesti Ajalooarhiiv F. 3724 N. 55. 2492.)
there at some time. On the slope, on an area of about 100 x 40 m, about a 20 cm thick habitation layer of little intensity was detected in trial pits. Among other finds, the head of 11th century decorative pin of so called Saarema type was found (Fig. 6: 3, for comparison see e. g. Mägi 1997, 39–44). The site is presumably a harbour place.

Veskimäe (“Mill Hill”), a low hill slightly sloping southward towards the eastern bank of the Maadevahe River, was checked because of the local tradition, according to which it was the earliest location of the Lepna farm (later village). Two stone piles, probably remains of ovens, were recorded on the slope. A circular depression nearby was determined to be a well site. A fragment of scissors, found beside one of the ovens (for comparison see e.g. Cowgill et al. 1987, Fig. 75), dated the farm site to the 14th century. The 5-m contour line indicate that Veskimäe may have functioned as an harbour in some time in the prehistory (Fig. 5).

Villages of Tõnija and Rõõsa (the latter situated in a different place from the present), a free single farmstead of Lepna, and the Rõõsa manor (in the place of present Rõõsa village) were mentioned for the area in the 18th century (The Estonian Historical Archives F 311, I. 1 D. 89, 375–476). The Rõõsa manor was established only in the first half of the 18th century (Saaremaa 1934, 785). Most of the arable lands in the northern part of Tõnija and Rõõsa area are former wetlands, drained and taken into use perhaps only in 1700's. On a map drawn in 1873, stony elevations, many of them prehistoric graves and remains of fossil fields, are accurately marked (Fig. 5). Some of the prehistoric sites have been destroyed by now. As assessed from the map, the prehistoric fields can be found mainly between the Paemöis/ Rõõsa manor and the earlier Rõõsa village.

Fig. 6. Finds from “Grave of the King” at Tõnija (1), Paemöis (2) and Kuru (3). (Al 6493, 6492, 6494. Bronze and iron.)
Joon. 6. Letaud Tõnija “Kuninga baasast” (1), Paemöiaisast (2) ja Kuru saadust (3). (Al 6493, 6492, 6494. Pronks ja raud.)

References

Cowgill, J.; de Neergaard from Excavations in London


Nerman, B. 1969. Die Vi...
There were probably two settlement units in prehistoric Tönija-Röösa area. In the present stage of investigation, though, it can be supposed that the Paemöis/Röösa manor unit was more important, since it was surrounded by better arable lands and since many more archaeological sites are recorded around it. The Lepna village that up to the 18th century was a single large farmstead probably marked the prehistoric harbour place.

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ARHEOLOGILISED VÄLITÖÖD TÖNJA JA RÖÖSA ÜMBRUSES LÕUNA-SAAREMAAL

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Kaevamised Tuulingumäel hõlmasid peamiselt eelrooma raauase kultuskoha kiviplatvormile eelnud konstruktsioone, mida võib tõlgendada samuti kultuskohana.Tuvestati selset kohu; mis oled kaevatud looduslikku pinnasesse (joon. 1, 2). Enamik lohkudest oli ümmarguse kujuga, läbibõõduga 80–120 cm ja sügavusega u. 20 cm. Teistest oluliselt suurem (145 x 110 cm) ja kuni meetri sügavuse olev ohk nr. 10. Lohk nr. 12 avastati juuba 1995. aasta kaevamiste ajal ja II tarandi nurks, kus pindus nurakivi. Seal paiknenud puupost oli ilmselt kasutatud nurgapostina II tarandi rajamisel. Varasemas konstruktsiooni kuuluvad ka tulease hilisema kiviplatvormil all ning väga suured raudkivid rooma raauase tarandkalme ja praeguse teevahel. Varasema kultuskohaga seotud vähestest leidudest on osa keraamilakkide dateritavat eelrooma raauasega olnud kivilistelt selle varasemasse pooldile. Samaasse aega võiks kuuluda ka Tuulingumäe esimene kultuskoh koht.


Valter
Tartu Ülikool

In 2001, the archaeologists of the University of Tartu discovered two of them having a Viking.

The surveys in southern Estonia, Ots and Konsa, this volume, except for one cup-ma. Based on the materials and map, they only a few of them had a beginning of the second century, attracting the

The excavations were completed in this session.

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Kedipiv was translated into Russian by...
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