

EXCAVATIONS AT PÖIDE STRONGHOLD HAVE BEEN FINISHED

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The excavations at Pöide (Kahutsi) stronghold started in 1990¹, were finished in summer, 1993.

The ditch was widened in the north-west corner for studying more exactly stove No. 3 which in greater part remained in the unexcavated area the previous year (Plate XIII). It appeared to be similar to the stove No. 1. It had a horse-shoe-shaped foundation of big stones surrounded by rectangular frame of vertical limestone slabs. The inside measurements of the stove were 60×120 cm. Its mouth opened to the south-west and was only 43 cm wide. In front of the mouth there was a hearth (*lee*) (120×80 cm) of slabs. Towards the north of the stove and behind it a limestone floor of the house was uncovered, partly destroyed by a post-hole of a later building. The floor was 80—85 cm below the measuring point. Several potsherds, some of them decorated with line-decorations, were found next to the stove, at the level of 97 cm below the measuring point.

While cleaning the debris of the wall of the stronghold we found that two different parts of it were of considerable size, especially those behind stoves Nos. 1 and 4. Yet, no final conclusions could be made about the wall, because the ditch caught it only with one corner. The different levels could be well examined behind stove No. 4. The stove was covered with the soil of earth, sand and some bigger stones — obviously the debris of the later wall. Under the stove a level of smaller stone-fall was unearthed which resembled the covering of the Merovingian-period stove No. 1. We considered this stone pavement to be the debris of an earlier, Merovingian-period wall or some kind of fortifications.

During this year's excavations it became clear that the pavement of smaller stones in the south-western quarter of the ditch, which was earlier considered as the floor of a Merovingian-period house, was actually native earth. It lay considerably deeper in the northern part of the excavations, deepening towards the north-west. As most of the Merovingian/Viking-period finds were found directly on this pavement, it had to be the level of the houses of this time. It seems that the buildings had had common earth floors which in some places near the oven were covered with limestone slabs. Intensive layer of brands and charcoal witnesses that the houses with stoves Nos. 1 and 3 had burned down.

Only 138 numbers of finds were found this year. Most of them were potsherds (Plate XIV, 1—5), similar to those found last year.² The pottery was additionally divided into three main groups, first of which belonging to the Pre-Roman Iron Age, the second to the Merovingian period or to the beginning of the Viking Age, and the last one to the 12th—13th centuries.

¹ Lõugas, V. Investigation of Pöide (Kahutsi) ancient monuments. — Proc. Estonian Acad. Sci. Social Sciences, 1991, 40, 4, p. 373—375, Plates V—VIII.

² Lõugas, V., Mägi-Lõugas, M. Investigation of ancient monuments in Pöide 1991—1992. — Proc. Estonian Acad. Sci. Humanities and Social Sciences, 1994, 43, 1, p. 27—33.

Three querns for grinding the grain seem to belong to the earliest stage of the settlement at Põide, to the Pre-Roman Iron Age. The same can be said about two large grinding stones, although such equipment was used up to the second half of the 1st millennium AD.

The most exciting finds were two weapons — a spearhead and a blade of sword from the Merovingian period. The first of them (Plate XV, 1) was found under stove No. 4. The stove remains belonged to the 12th–13th centuries. The spearhead lay under them at the level of the floor of the Merovingian-period house. No exact parallels have been found to the spearhead either in Estonia or in the neighbouring countries. It has a slender blade with slightly convex sides. The point of the blade has an almost rhomboid section, which also points to the Merovingian period. The closest counterpart can be found on Merovingian (Vendel)-period Gotland.³ Near the spearhead we also found an iron knife with a wooden haft that has survived in its greater part (Plate XV, 4).

The hilt of the sword (Plate XV, 2) is unfortunately missing. The blade is single-edged, the surviving part being 44.6 cm long. Such swords with single-edged blades were in use mostly in the Merovingian period. The blade was found under a limestone slab, obviously a remain of the Merovingian-period floor, between stoves Nos. 1 and 4.

From the last building period of the stronghold, a javelin with a knife-shaped blade, a double-crossed pinhead and two spiral finger-rings were found (Plate XV, 3; XIV, 6–8). They are all common artifacts of the 12th–13th century Estonia. An oval fire-iron and a piece of a spiral bracelet (Plate XV, 5; XIV, 9) obviously belong to the Merovingian stage of the stronghold.

The osteological material was studied by Lembi Lõugas. The most important domesticated animals appeared to be cattle, but pigs and sheep (or goats) were also numerous represented. In two places bones of a horse were found. The inhabitants of Põide had also eaten fish (perch, pike and ide) and birds. Single bones of wild boar, hare and seal were also found.

The first excavations at Põide stronghold are over. All the stoves were destroyed in order to study the levels under them. After the excavations were finished and the earth was moved back to the ditch, two earlier stove-remains were reconstructed on the ground.

³ Nerman, B. Die Vendelzeit Gotlands. 2. Tafeln. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitetsakademien Monogr. Stockholm, 1969, Abb. 578.

KAEVAMISTE LÕPETAMINE PÕIDE MAALINNAL

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1993. aasta suveks jäi kaevandi loodenurgas lõpuni avamata ahjuvare nr. 3. Selle avamiseks tuli kaevandit veidi laiendada. Ehituselt osutus ahjuvare sarnaseks ahjuga nr. 1: hobuserauakujuliselt laotud raudkivid moodustasid seinad, mida hoidis koos vertikaalsetest paeplaatidest neli-nurkne salv. Ahju sisemõõdud olid 60×120 cm. Ahju ümbruses oli säilinud paeplaatidest põrandat.

Asustuse vanimat järku esindavad vähesed savinõukillud, kolm kulu-nud kantidega jahvekivi ja kaks nõgusat jahvealust.

Ahju nr. 4 lammutamisel leiti selle alt odaots (tahv. XV, 1). Lähedusest põrandaplaadi alt saadi üheteralise mõõga katke (tahv. XV, 2). Kuju ja leiutingimuste järgi peaksid mõlemad kuuluma Merovingi või varavikingiaega. Samasse aega kuulub ka valdav osa keraamikast (tahv. XIV, 1—5). Mõned leiud (kaksikristpeaga nõel, spiraalsõrmused, heiteoda ots — tahv. XIV, 6—8; XV, 3) pärinevad 12.—13. sajandist.

Leitud luumaterjali hulgas domineerivad veise-, samuti lamba(kitse)-ja sealuud. Vähem on hobuseluid, esineb ka üksikuid kala- (ahven, haug, säinas) ja linnuluid.

Pärast kaevandi kinniajamist rekonstrueeriti kahe varasema ahju põhjad maapinnal.

ЗАВЕРШЕНИЕ РАСКОПОК НА ГОРОДИЩЕ ПЕЙДЕ

Велло ЛЫУГАС, Марика МЯГИ-ЛЫУГАС

В 1993 г. была продолжена расчистка печи № 3, для чего раскоп пришлось расширить. По конструкции печи №№ 3 и 1 аналогичны — подковообразные стенки, выложенные из валунов, и обнесенные известняковыми плитами основания. Размеры пода печей 60×120 см, подход к ним был с юго-запада, перед устьем находился очаг. Вокруг печей обнаружены остатки известняковых вымосток. Постройка погибла во время пожара.

Среди находок древнейшими оказались терочники и зернотерки, а также часть лепной керамики доримского периода. Особого внимания заслуживает наконечник копья (табл. XV, 1), найденный под печью № 4 в культурном слое ниже пода печи. Точные аналоги находке нам неизвестны, но она напоминает наконечники копий конца эпохи меровингов или начала эпохи викингов. Поблизости под вымостками пола найдена половинка однолезвийного меча (табл. XV, 2). В слое собрана лепная керамика с гладкой поверхностью и лощеная керамика, орнаментированная горизонтальными линиями. Такая керамика характерна для памятников 8—9 вв. Эстонии, Западной Финляндии и Центральной Швеции.

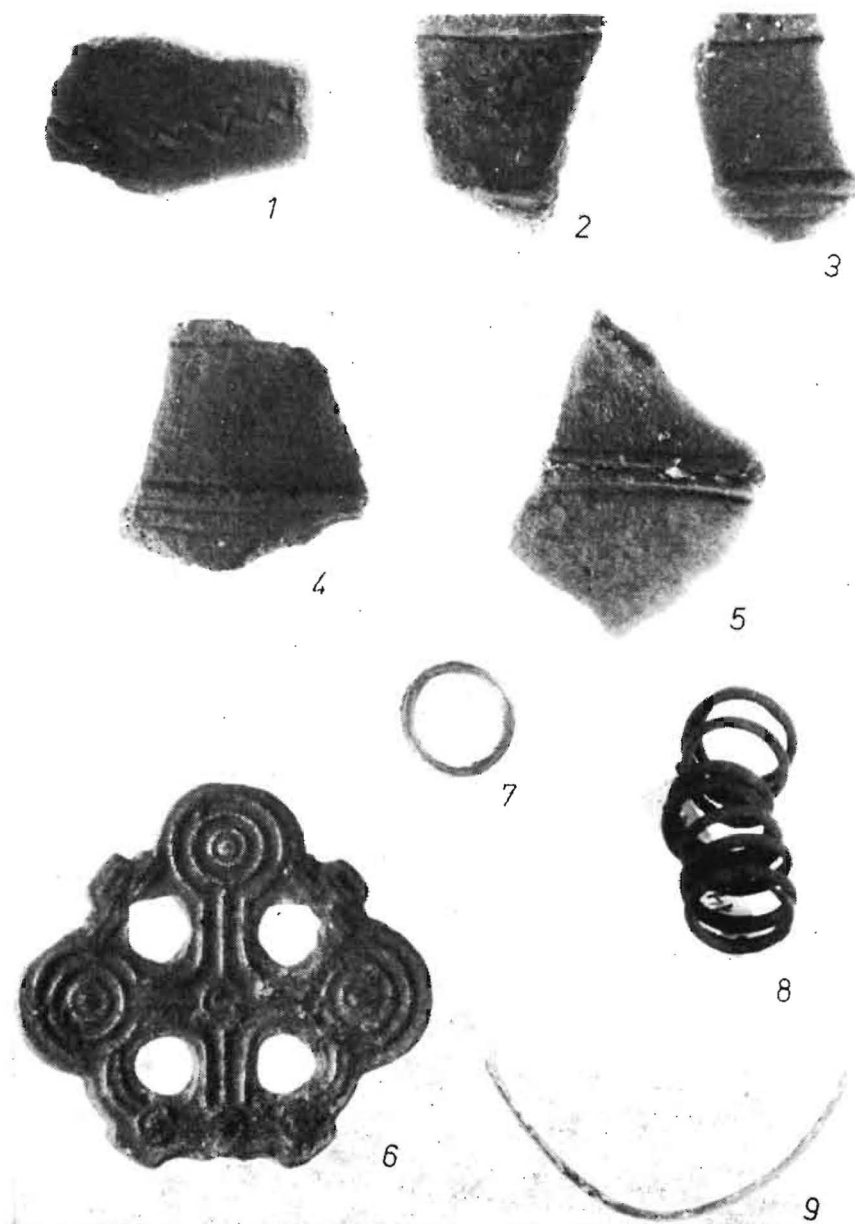
Среди остеологического материала доминировали кости крупного рогатого скота, а также овец, коз, свиней, меньше было лошадиных костей, кости рыб (окуня, щуки, язя) и птиц единичны.

Некоторые черепки и находки — булавка с крестообразной головкой, спиральные перстни, дротик (табл. XIV, 6—8) — происходят из слоев 12—13 вв.

После окончания раскопок печи №№ 1 и 3 были реставрированы.



Pöide. Stoves nos. 2 and 3. Countours of buildings.



Põide. Finds from stronghold. 1 potsherd from the 12th—13th cen., 2—5 potsherds from the Merovingian period/early Viking Age, 6 double crossed pin-head, 7, 8 spiral finger-rings, 9 piece of spiral bracelet. (SM 1460: 619, 669, 612, 617, 630, 677, 658, 624. — 6—9 bronze; all 3:4.)



Pöide. Iron artefacts from stronghold. 1 spearhead, 2 blade of sword, 3 javelin, 4 knife with wooden haft, 5 fire-iron. (SM 1460: 700, 675, 679, 692, 614. — 1—3 ca 1:3, 4, 5 3:4.)

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43 / 4