



## VIKING AGE HOARD FROM KINKSI, COUNTY OF LÄÄNEMAA

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### HISTORY

On 19 September 2011 archaeologist and numismatist Mauri Kiudsoo received an e-mail, which informed him that a silver spiral arm ring was found while picking potatoes, and shortly afterwards a number of additional items placed together in a broken clay vessel close to the find place of the arm ring were discovered. The finder had taken out the content of the pot, but left the broken pieces *in situ*. He took two photographs – one of the vessel, and the other of his daughter standing in the find place. Then he covered the clay pot with soil and contacted archaeologists right away to hand over the found items and direct them to the find place. The attached photos confirmed that a Viking Age hoard had been unearthed. A team of two archaeologists and a conservator from the Institute of History, University of Tallinn arrived on site on 1st of October.

### SURVEY OF THE FIND PLACE

The hoard was discovered in Kinksi village, Läänemaa (former Karuse parish), in an area from where no former records of archaeological sites and stray finds were known. The farmer explained that the field where the hoard was discovered had been used for growing potatoes and vegetables for dozens of years, the field has been ploughed with a horse or a small tractor and never had the plough reached deeper than 25–30 cm. Potatoes had been recently picked, the next field lay fallow and the soil there was equally dark brown and rich in humus, yet without any distinct features of a cultural layer. A fragment of a flat fine-grained pottery with a polished surface and a shred of burnt animal bone were discovered as surface finds.

The two photographs made by the finder were used to locate the hidden clay pot. However, it soon appeared that the photographs were taken at an angle that could not assist in determining the exact find spot. We therefore had to abandon the original plan to make only a couple of test pits in order to document the find place and remove the pot from the ground.

### EXCAVATIONS AT THE FIND PLACE AND SEARCH WITH A METAL DETECTOR

The search for locating the clay vessel began at the spot indicated by the finder as well as he could remember. Since no vessel was discovered there, the finder suggested us to move gradually westwards with a 1.2–1.3 m wide trench. Simultaneously, the earth dug

out from the pits was checked with a metal detector and the field surface was examined using the network method. From the spot shown to us first we discovered two small bronze weights and a silver spiral ring. All these items originated from the Late Iron Age and were scattered in the plough. It was therefore highly possible that they were part of the hoard discovered during the potato harvest, with some items scattered over the field.

In search of the clay vessel containing the hoard we reached our goal at 6.3 meters – the total excavated area hence was *ca.* 8 m<sup>2</sup>. The excavation profile affirmed that the thickness of the humus-rich soil layer on top of the light yellow gravel untouched by human activities was 30–35 cm, earthworks had not reached the 3–5 cm dark grey stria over the gravel. The rich humus content of the plough was apparently the result of regular fertilising. In a couple of places the ploughshare had also touched the gravel, leaving darker 1–2 cm wide and mostly parallel stripes into the light topsoil. Only few finds were discovered: five fragments of pottery and one piece of flint with a retouched edge. All of them were scattered in the plough. Closer examination of the five fragments of pottery confirmed that four of them, including a fragment of the brim, belonged to the clay vessel containing the hoard.

### THE HOARD AND ITS POSITION

Pieces of the clay vessel containing the hoard were located exactly as depicted on the photograph taken by the finder. These were approximately a dozen fragile blackish grey fragments from the lower part of a fine-grained vessel (Fig. 1). No brim pieces had survived, and only a few convex side fragments were found. The best preserved part was the bottom of the vessel, its thickness was 0.8 cm and diameter 13 cm. Several fragments displayed traces of brownish red rust on their inner side, suggesting that something made of iron may have been placed in the pot or in the immediate vicinity of it.

A surprising discovery was a thick light grey layer of ash surrounding the pot fragments. Further excavations showed that the pot had been placed in a concavity that had been the fire place with a diameter of *ca.* 30 cm inside an oven with a clay floor. Extracting the bottom pieces, a fragment of highly oxidized fire steel was discovered (Fig. 2). Since ash was found on and between the pieces of the fire steel and the bottom fragments of the clay pot, it is not certain whether the fire steel had



Fig. 1. Broken clay vessel in situ.

Jn 1. Purunenud savinõu in situ.

Photo / Foto: Tarvi Toome



Fig. 2. Fragment of the fire steel.

Jn 2. Tuleraua fragment.

(AI 7042: 9.)

Photo / Foto: Ülle Tamla

been inside the clay pot or whether it had been in the ashes before the vessel containing the valuables had been placed in the fire place.

### **REMAINS OF THE OVEN**

From the oven, the floor had survived, which had been built as a rectangular 2–3 cm thick clay platform on a dark thin grey layer of soil above light gravel. The oven floor was carefully smoothed and we cleaned a 1 × 1 m area, where the above-mentioned fire place remained in the North side. The arched upper fringe of the fire place was level with the floor. The deepest part of the fire place from the upper fringe was 20 cm, the lower part had been deepened 5–8 cm into the gravel surface.

We then attempted to determine the type of the oven. Since there were no traces of small field stones typical of a *keris* oven (a pile of cobblestones on top of a fireplace) on the clay floor of the oven, also no layer of heavily burnt field stones, we assumed that it was not a *keris*-type oven. Most possibly it was a flueless arched clay oven. This was confirmed by fat clay stumps crumbled in extreme heat that had cumulated to the oven floor. Most of these stumps bore traces of smoothing and oval relief imprints that may have been the result of poles used to support the fresh clay top in the construction of the oven. There were no traces of the oven floor extending to the East, hence it may also be that a room annexed to the oven continued westwards, i.e. at an area not excavated. However, the authors of the present article are of the opinion that the oven was especially made for cooking as an outdoor oven for baking the bread.

### **CONTENT OF THE HOARD**

The original size and content of the hoard have remained uncertain. The only definite fact is that the hoard was placed in a blackish grey flat fine-grained clay pot (Fig. 1). The circumstances of the discovered dozen fragments of the pot (hollowed fireplace below the plough layer) and the fact that these fragments did not contain any brim pieces allows us to assume that only the bottom part of the clay vessel had remained in the original spot. The distribution of the fragments cleaned during the study and the ancient appearance of the broken lines suggest that the upper part of the vessel had broken and ploughed into the field long before the pot was discovered in September 2011. This is also supported by the fact that a few fragments discovered several meters further from the ash pit belong to the same vessel. These fragments include also a small brim piece and two bigger convex side fragments with iron rust on the inner side.

The three silver spiral rings may have originally been in the upper part of the clay vessel, when the pot was broken and ploughing may have carried the rings further to the field. The first ring (99.27 g) was discovered in autumn 2011 when picking potatoes (Fig. 3: 1) and the second (100.66 g) was unearthed in the course of the archaeological excavations (Fig. 3: 3). The third ring (99.15 g) had been found by the farmer already many years ago (Fig. 3: 2). The farmer considered it to be a part of machinery and placed it on his garage wall. In the context of archaeological excavations he remembered the ‘spring’ that had hung on his garage wall for several years.

It is certain that the pot contained also four weights (Figs 4: 1–4; 6), an amber item (Fig. 4: 5), a small spiral from bronze wire (Fig. 4: 6), and a shoulder part of a bronze balance with a piece of braided chain of silver wire attached to it (Fig. 5: 1).

Fig. 3. Silver spiral rings.

Jn 3. Spiraalsed hõbedakangid.

(AI 7049: 1; 7055; 7042: 4.)

Photo / Foto: Tarvi Toome

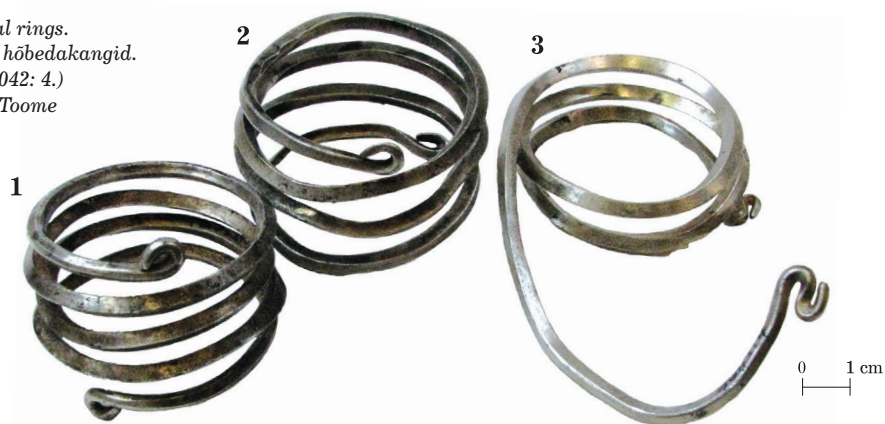


Fig. 4. 1–4 – weights, 5 – amber bead or spinning whorl, 6 – spiral of bronze wire.

Jn 4. 1–4 – kaaluvihid, 5 – merevaigust helmes või värtakeder, 6 – pronkstraadist spiraalike.

(AI 7049: 3–8.)

Photo / Foto: Tarvi Toome



Fig. 5. 1 – container, 2 – shoulder part of scales, 3 – pans.

Jn 5. 1 – toos, 2 – kaaluõlg, 3 – kaalukausid.

(AI 7049: 2; 7054: 1, 2.)

Photo / Foto: Tarvi Toome



It is possible that in addition to the above mentioned, the hoard contained also a bronze box with a bronze balance (Fig. 5: 1, 3), found by the wife of the farmer from the same field two or three years ago. It is possible that the hoard included also a fire steel (Fig. 2). But it is also equally possible that the fire steel had been placed in the ash pit before the clay vessel with the valuables.



Fig. 6. Weights. 1 – spherical, 2 – polygonal.

Jn 6. Kaaluvihid. 1 – ümmargune, 2 – hulktahukas.

(AI 7042: 3, 5.)

Photo / Foto: Ülle Tamla

### DATING OF THE HOARD AND THE OVEN REMAINS

The Kinksi hoard does not contain any coins that could help to date the hoard with certain precision. The initial dating of the items is based on similar finds discovered and dated in the Baltic Sea region, including in Estonia. Further studies may specify the age of the find place and the hoard itself.

The three silver spiral rings (Fig. 3) represent the types that are well known from the Viking Age hoards around the Baltic Sea, especially in Gotland. These are spirally wired silver rods. Most of the nearly a hundred spiral rings of the same type found in Gotland have been dated to the 10th century (Stenberger 1958, 226ff; Lundström 1973, 56). Vladislavs Urtāns mentions two such rods in hoards found in Latvia that both date from the 10th century (1977, 168, 171). One spiral rod of the same type is known from Lithuania, also dated to the 10th century (Vaitkunskienė 1981, 93). Before the discovery of the Kinksi hoard, two analogous silver rods have been included in the Estonian museum collections – from the Ääsmäe and Väike-Rõude hoards (Tõnisson 1962, no. 6; Leimus 1991). Additionally, there is solid data about similar finds in the Saue Vanamõisa hoard, which has been lost (Leimus 2007, no. 11). Both the Ääsmäe and Saue Vanamõisa hoards have been dated to the 10th century, the Väike-Rõude hoard to 1018 (Molvõgin 1994, 19). According to the study of the Swedish archaeologist Lillemor Lundström on spiral silver rods, the Kinksi hoard spiral rings represent type C: IIb in her typology on the number of spirals, and sub-types 2 (lea-shaped) and 3 (S-shaped) according to the different shape of the spiral ends (Lundström 1973, 53, 54, figs 2, 8). Therefore the three silver spirals from the Kinksi hoard might be dated to the 10th century based on parallel finds.

The tiny bronze beam, grooved at both ends, with a bronze wire ring together with a braided chain of silver wire attached to the flat end (Fig. 5: 2) belongs to scales. Such scales consist of two bronze tinned pans, which were attached to the folding balance arms with chains or a cord (Fig. 5: 3). Both the scale and the weights were placed in a bronze (Fig. 5: 1) or wooden box or a leather pouch. Light scales, used mainly for weighing precious metals, but also spices, glass beads, etc., have been discovered from a wide territory from Russia to the British Isles. Such scales were most widely used in the Viking Age silver trade in Scandinavia and East Europe (Selirand 1974, 99; Kyhlberg 1980; Berga 1996; Steuer 1997; Pedersen 2008, 119ff; Tamla & Kiudsoo 2009, nos 21, 23). Apparently the earliest scales were brought from the Orient together with silver, but later they were locally manufactured (Kyhlberg 1980, 271–272; Steuer 1987, 462; Berga 1996, 54–55). On the basis of the specific features of the

balance arms (grooved ends) and the shape of the container (a hemispherical bronze box with only a slightly convex lid) of the Kinksi find they belong to a scale-type 3.2 and a container-type A of Heiko Steuer's typology of scales. This type of scales was introduced in 880/90 and was used mainly in the 10th century (Steuer 1997, 25–26, 38–39, figs 5, 14a–c). The closest analogue to the Kinksi scales is known from the Viking Age Birka, Sweden.<sup>1</sup> The outstanding feature of the Kinksi scales is their decoration: a row of dots and circles has been stamped on the edge of each pan. The decoration of the bronze container furnished with hinges and a lock is considerably more elaborate: besides the stamped dots and circles concentric circles with a rosette in the centre have been engraved under the bottom of the container as well as on the lid.

Six weights are currently known from the Kinksi hoard (Figs 4: 1–4; 6). Four of them (Fig. 4: 1–4) are oblate spheroid weights with an iron core in a bronze case. The flat areas of these weights carry weight marks, where different numbers of circles are connected by curved lines. The biggest and the heaviest weight (*ca.* 100 g) has a pseudo-Arabic inscription (Fig. 4: 1). Such weights (Steuer 1997: B 1 older form) were used in the Nordic countries in the 9th and 10th centuries and probably had oriental prototypes, and thus follow the oriental system of weights. In addition to a spherical bronze weight that resembles a plummet with a lea (Fig. 6: 1), another polygonal bronze item was discovered during the survey of the find place (Fig. 6: 2), which according to Steuer belongs to type A and is dated to the end of the 9th century until the beginning of the 11th century (1997: A). The weights were also associated with the later medieval Scandinavian system in which 1 *mark* = 8 *öre* = 24 *örtugar* (Kyhberg 1980, 24ff).

The carefully crafted conical amber bead (Fig. 4: 5) is remarkable for its size (diameter 2.5 cm) and is the only of its kind in the Estonian archaeological find material. Since its weight (4.13 g) corresponds to half an *örtug*, it is possible that the object was used as a weight. Literature mentions several objects in addition to bronze weights that have been used for weighing silver (see Kyhberg 1980, 224–227; Pedersen 2008, 127; Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 229). For example, in Birka cornelian beads were also used as weights (Kyhberg 1980, 225–226). It is also possible that the amber item found from Kinksi is rather a spinning whorl. This is supported by the following observations: the size of the object corresponds to the size of bone and clay spinning whorls that are common in Estonian archaeological find material. In addition, the object has a double-conical evenly smoothed shape, most typical to spinning whorls and the 7 mm hole in the centre of the object is too large for an ornament, but quite suitable for fastening the spindle (see Vedru 1999).

The Kinksi hoard was placed into a fine clay pot. The survived fragments suggest that it had a flat bottom, slightly thicker than the sides. The only single fragment from near the brim indicates that the sides were slightly narrowing towards the top, there was a narrow torus on the shoulder, making the shoulder part slightly thicker from the bottom part of the side. Such type of pottery is typical to the archaeological sites in the coastal areas in North Estonia and researchers have dated it uniformly to the Viking Age (Tamla 1983, 304 and literature cited). In the typology by the Swedish ceramics researcher Dagmar Selling the pot in question resembles most of all type A III and is dated to the period from the mid 9th century to the second half of the 10th century.

<sup>1</sup> Heritage Images: <http://www.heritage-images.com/Preview/PreviewPage.aspx?id=2358917&pricing=true&licenseType=RM> (01.06.2012.).

Selling was also convinced that such vessels were brought to Sweden from the East coast of the Baltic Sea (1955, 148, 153, 154, fig. 63).

The fire steel found together with the pieces of pottery has survived only fragmentarily. The reconstruction of the object suggests that it had been a 6.5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide oval tool for striking fire. Such tools are common in North and East Europe, where they came into use in the second half of the 1st millennium and continued to be used (also in Estonia) until at least the 16th century. No regional characteristics have been noted in the shape and distribution of fire steels in Estonia (see Selirand 1971, 99–100 and literature cited). A significant fact is that the Kinksi fire steel has a 1:1 counterpart in Karelia in the Räisälä Hovinsaari find with predominantly Late Viking Age material (see Kivikoski 1973, 149, fig. 1250; Uino 1997, 295, 388).

The arched clay ovens that differ from the *keris*-type ovens used for heating the rooms and the sauna are believed to be of Slavonic origin. Such clay ovens started to appear in few Slavic settlements on the territory of the present day West Ukraine around the 6th–7th centuries. Clay ovens of the same period or perhaps slightly earlier are also known from Scania in South Sweden. The areas where clay ovens were used extended considerably in the end of the 1st millennium and beginning of the 2nd millennium. Around then clay ovens appeared also on the territory of Latvia, where a lot of such ovens are known from the Livonian hill forts and settlements at the Daugava River. At least one such arched clay oven is known from South-West Finland, where according to the weights found in the vicinity it was dated to the 11th century. This oven, too, is thought to have been built outside the building as a separate baking oven (Tõnisson 1981, 52 and literature cited).

The first clay ovens in Estonia were discovered from the Rõuge settlement, dated to the 9th–11th centuries, but there the ovens were built inside buildings (Tvauri 2012, 68). The same seems to be relevant to the Viking Age clay ovens discovered in the Pada and Ubina settlements (Tamla 1983, 302; Tamla *et al.* 2006, 234).

### CONCLUSION

Based on the dating of the material from the Kinksi hoard, the authors are convinced that the items were deposited in the hollow for the fire place in a clay pot probably in the 10th century to keep them safe from danger. The firesteel placed in the hollow together with spiral silver bars and other valuable items could have had some symbolic meaning (e.g. protection for the treasure) besides its practical value (see Hårdh 1984, 60). The objects in the hoard suggest that the treasure had belonged to a person dealing with merchandise.

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## VIikingiaegne Aardeleid Läänemaalt Kinksi

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2011. a septembris saadeti Tallinna Ülikooli Ajaloo Instituuti e-kiri, milles anti teada, et kartulivõtmisel oli tulnud mullapõuest päevavalgele hõbedast spiraalvõru ja selle avastamiskoha vahetust lähedusest veel mitmeid esemeid, mis asetsesid üheskoos purunenud savinõus. Esemekogum avastati Läänemaalt Kinksi küla maadelt kohast, kus varasemad teated arheoloogilistest kinnis- ja irdmuististest puuduvad. Savinõu leidmiseks kaevati läbi u 8 m<sup>2</sup> suurune ala. Kaevandi profiilist nähtus, et inimtegevusest puutumatule helekollasele kruusale ladestunud huumusrikka mullakihi paksus on 30–35 cm, millest on jäänud maaharimisest puutumata 3–5 cm tusedusega kruusapealne tumehall viir. Leide oli vähe ja kõik need paiknesid künnikihi hajali.

Aardepotist (jn 1) oli säilinud anuma alaosa parkümmend katket. Mitme killu sisepinnal oli näha rauaroostet, mis viitas võimalusele, et potis või selle läheduses on olnud mingi raudese. Üllatavaks avastuseks oli savinõukilde ümbritsev paks tuhakiht. Seda laiemalt lahti kaevates selgus, et pott asetses ahju ees olevas leelohus. Poti põhjatükkide väljavõtmisel avastati oksüdeerunud tuleraua katke (jn 2).

Ahjust oli säilinud 2–3 cm paksune silutud savipõrand, mille põhjapoolsesse otsa jäi leelohk. Et ahju-põrandast ida pool ei ilmnenud midagi niisugust, mis on iseloomulik tallatud muldpõrandale, siis tuleb ühe võimalusena kõne alla ahjuga liituvat ruumi (toa) paiknemine lääne pool, st alal, mida välja ei kaevatud. Käesoleva artikli autoritele näib usutavam hoopis teine võimalus: tegemist on spetsiaalselt toiduvalmistamiseks, sh leivaküpsetamiseks ehitatud ja tõenäoliselt üksnes lühikest aega kasutuses olnud õueahjuga.

Kinksi aarde algne sisu ja suurus pole täpselt teada. Ainus, mida saab kindlalt väita, on see, et aarde „konteineriks“ oli kasutatud savipotti (jn 1). Uuringute käigus välja puhastatud kildude asend ja nende murdekohtade vana välimus kinnitab oletust, et nõu ülaosa oli purunenud ja mööda põldu laiali künatud ammu enne aardepoti avastamist. Seda seisukohta toetavad ka tuhaaugust mitme meetri kauguselt avastatud potiga kokku kuuluvad killud, sh üks servatükk ja küljekillud, mille sisepinnal on samuti rauaroostekiht.

Kolm hõbedast spiraalvõru võisid algselt olla savinõu ülemises osas ja poti purunedes kanduda maaharimisega põllule laiali. Neist esimene avastati 2011. a sügisel kartulivõtmisel (jn 3: 1) ja teine arheoloogilistel kaevamistel (jn 3: 3). Kolmanda võru (jn 3: 2) oli leidnud talu vanaperemees samalt põllult aastaid tagasi. Päris kindlasti olid savipotis olnud ka leidja poolt üle antud neli tünnikujulist kaaluvihti (jn 4: 1–4), merevaigust helmes (jn 4: 5), pronksraadist spiraalvõru (jn 4: 6) ja pronkskaalude õlaosa, mille külge kinnitub hõbetradist punutise jupp (jn 5: 2). Tõenäoliselt kuulusid aarde koosseisu veel pronksplekist toos (jn 5: 1) ja selles olnud kaalukaunid (jn 5: 3). Need olid leitud kaks või kolm aastat tagasi samalt kartulipõllult. Võimalik, et algselt oli aardepotis veel kaks väikest kaaluvihti (jn 6) ja tuleraud (jn 2). Viimase puhul ei saa välistada ka teist võimalust: see oli sattunud tuhaauku enne, kui sinna asetati varaga savinõu.

Kinksi aarde vanuse määramisel võeti aluseks Läänemere ümbruse maadest avastatud ja publitseeritud analoogsed leiud. Kolm hõbedast spiraalvõru (jn 3) esindavad eriti Ojamaa (Gotlandi) viikingiaegsetes aaretel hästi tuntud esemetüüpi. Tegemist on spiraalselt kokku keeratud hõbedakangidega. Ojamaalt leitud sadakonnast sama tüüpi spiraalvõrust on pea kõik dateeritud 10. sajandisse. Sama vanusemäärang on ka kuuel Lätist ja ühel Leedust avastatud spiraalvõrul. Enne Kinksi leidu olid Eesti muuseumikogudesse jõudnud 2 analoogset hõbedakangi (Ääsmäe ja Väike-Rõude aardest). Lisaks on andmeid veel Saue Vanamõisa aardes sisalduvad samasuguste võrude kohta. Saue ja Ääsmäe aare on dateeritud 10. sajandisse; Väike-Rõude leiu kõige noorem münt on vermitud aastal 1018. Seega võib kõik kolm Kinksi aardes sisalduvat spiraalvõru dateerida ühte ja samasse aega, s.o 10. sajandisse.

Mõlemast otsast soonitud pronksist kangike, mille ühte otsa kinnitub hõbetradist punutisejupp (jn 5: 2), pärineb kaasaskantavatest kaaludest. Sellised kaalud mahutati koos kaaluvihtidega kahest poolmest koosnevasse plekktõssi (jn 5: 1), puust karpist või nahast kotti. Tuginedes olemasoleva kaaluõla (soonitud otsad) ja plekktõssi eripärale (poolkerakujuline alumine osa ja üksnes kergelt kumer kaas), kuuluvad Kinksi kaalud 10. sajandisse ja on seega vanim Eestist avastatud kaalukomplekt. Kuuest kaaluvihist neli (jn 4: 1–4) kuuluvad raudsüdamikule ja pronksümbrisega tünnikujuliste vihtide sekka, mis olid Põhjamaades kasutusel 9.–10. saj. Loodiga sarnanev kera- (jn 6: 1) ja hulktahtakujuline väike kaaluviht (jn 6: 2) on läbinisti pronksist ning nendesarnaseid on teada 9.–10. saj Läänemere- ja Skandinaavia leidude hulgas. Koonusekujuline auguga merevaigust helmes (jn 4: 5) äratub tähelepanu oma suuruse

(läbimõõt 2,5 cm) ja hoolika töötuse poolest ning on Eesti arheoloogilises leiumaterjalis ainueksemplar. Kui pidada silmas eseme suurust, vormi ja täpselt keskel oleva augu läbimõõtu (0,7 cm), siis võidi seda pruukida ka värtnakedrana. Kuna selle kaal (4,13 g) vastab poolele örtugile, siis võidi eset vajadusel kasutada ka kaaluvihina.

Kinksi aare oli pandud käsitsi vormitud ja tugeva põletusega peenkeramillisse savipotti, mille kõrgus võis olla 15–18 cm. Otsustades anumast säilinud fragmentide põhjal, oli selle põhi lame ja mõnevõrra paksem küljeseinast. Ainsa servalähedase tüki põhjal nähtub, et anuma seinaprofiil oli serva suunas mõnevõrra ahenev ning nõu ülal oli kitsas möigas, mis muutis selle külje alaosast veidi paksemaks. Eestis on selliste tunnustega keraamika iseloomulik põhjaranniku viikingiaegsetele muististele.

Koos savinõukildudega leitud rauast tuleraud (jn 2) on säilinud fragmentaarselt. Eseme rekonstruktsiooni põhjal on tegemist u 6,5 cm pika ja u 2,5 cm laia ovaalse tööriistaga, millesarnaseid tuntakse Põhja- ja Ida-Euroopas, kus need tulid tarvitusele I aastatuhande teisel poolel ja olid kasutusel, sh ka Eestis, vähemalt 16. saj. Eestis pole tuleraudade vormis ja nende levikus mingeid piirkondlikke eripärasid täheldatud.

Tuginedes Kinksi aardeleidu kuuluvate esemete vanusemäärangutele, mis langevad paralleelleidude põhjal valdavalt ühte ja samasse aega, oleme arvamusel, et savinõuga leelohku asetatud esemed peideti sinna 10. saj ning ilmselt hädaohu sunnil. Koos spiraalsete hõbedakangide ja teiste väärtuslike esemetega seal olnud lihtsal tuleraual võis lisaks praktilisele väärtusele olla ka mingi muu, nt vara kaitsva sümboli tähendus. Leiukogumi esemeline koosseis osutab sellele, et vara kuulus kauplemisega tegelevale inimesele.