LIVONIAN WAR TIME HOARD FROM SARGVERE SETTLEMENT SITE, JÄRVA COUNTY

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INTRODUCTION
Sargvere settlement site is located in Järva county, Paide municipality in the territory of historical Peetri parish (Fig. 1). Real estate developer Raivo Vende found the site in the year 2007. In the same year archaeological rescue investigations were carried out under the supervision of Andres Tvauri. The scale and dating of the settlement site were determined and some of the most damaged spots were researched in excavation plots. It was found out that the Sargvere settlement site had been in use at least from the 12th century to the 17th century (Tvauri 2007; 2008). While unearthing a relatively well-preserved base of a building among other things ten coins were found probably belonging to a late medieval hoard (Sargvere I; tpg 1535) (Kiudsoo & Leimus 2008, 224–225). In 2007 A. Tvauri proposed the National Heritage Board to designate Sargvere settlement site as an archaeological monument. By the time of finding the hoard in 2011 the settlement site had not yet been designated as a monument.

In November 2011 a metal detectorist informed the National Heritage Board of finding a presumptive hoard that he did not dig out. The site was visited at the request of the Board on 12 November, 2011 and the entire Sargvere II hoard was lifted as a block at the presence of the finder of the hoard and Tiit Schvede, Senior Inspector of National Heritage for Järva county.
DIGGING OUT SARGVERE
II HOARD AND CONTEXT
OF THE FIND

The find spot was situated south from Alliksoone housing estate on a ploughed
field. A rectangular 1 × 1 m excavation plot was made at the spot. After removing the
ploughed layer a little hole (30 × 30 cm) dug by a metal detectorist was clearly
distinguishable. Some particles of a hoard, removed from their original place, were
discovered in it. Digging deeper layer-by-layer around the hole in the depth of 30 cm
from the ground, a part of the hoard in its original location started to reveal. A metal
detector was used to find out the reach of metal objects and a trench was dug
around the find complex.

In the find spot a 30 cm thick top
layer was disturbed by ploughing. It con-
trasted with the thick, solid soil under-
neath. The metal detectorist had found artefacts from the ploughing layer around
the location of the hoard that evidently
belonged to it (see below).

In the depth of 30–50 cm from the
ground the soil consisted of brown organ-
ics with abundant pieces of burnt granite,
burnt clay and animal bones. No stone
constructions or indication of a floor were
found. Intact natural loam occurred in the depth of 50 cm. The hoard had probably
been hidden inside a building or in close vicinity to it.

Artefact complex was packed into plastic foil along with the soil (Figs 2, 3) and
brought to the Tartu University archaeology laboratory. The block was opened and
artefacts conserved by Andres Vindi and Riina Rammo (Rammo et al. 2012). Ar-
tefacts¹ are preserved in the collections of the Institute of History and Archaeology
of Tartu University.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOARD

When the block was opened it became clear that the hoard constituted mainly of metal
pendants and glass beads. Although beads and pendants were placed tight together it
was impossible to say how exactly they could have been placed in the adornment. In
some sections it was possible to observe rows of beads or of beads and bronze rumbler
bells. In the bottom of the hoard, underneath a large silver sheet (bracteate) pendant a
thin layer of wood (in an area of approximately 9.5 × 9.5 cm) was preserved due to the

¹ TÜ 1957.
conserving qualities of metal. It was probably a remainder of a wooden vessel into which the artefacts were placed. Sargvere II hoard consisted of a silver sheet pendant and Anthony’s cross pendant made of silver sheet, 7 coin pendants, 9 bronze rumbler bells and 25 larger glass beads.

**Large silver sheet pendant**

The largest artefact in the hoard that initially drew the metal detectorist’s attention was a silver sheet pendant (Fig. 4). Its diameter was 9.8–9.9 cm and it was adorned with a punched and embossed cross-figure with embossed dome in the middle.

Silver sheet pendants with the same cross figure and similar refinement, probably made by the same craftsman, have been found in Estonia earlier. Two of the find spots are quite near to Sargvere. A hoard from the second half of the 16th century containing silver sheet pendants and other silver jewellery found from Paide parish, the village of Valgma had three of such silver sheet. One similar pendant has been discovered in Paide (Kirme 2002, fig. 9). Another similar silver sheet has been obtained from Virumaa from the estates of Porkuni manor.

Silver sheet pendants made of thin, low silver content sheets with punched and embossed ornament are a typical compound of the hoards of the second half of the 16th century in Estonia. In most cases, there are several pendants found in one hoard. Sargvere hoard was not complete – the upper part of it had been wiped off by ploughing. It could originally have contained more silver sheets.

**A pendant with a shape of Anthony’s cross**

The detectorist found a pendant with a shape of Anthony’s cross from the ploughing layer near the site of the hoard. It was made of thin, low silver content sheet (Fig. 5) that was damaged by ploughing. The pendant is 6.8 cm long and 5.5 cm wide, adorned with a punched ornament.

At least 19 Anthony’s cross pendants have been found earlier in Estonia (Kirme 2002, 29). Pendants of this type are characteristic to the hoards of the second half of the 16th century and therefore the pendant can be assumed to have been part of the Sargvere hoard.

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2 AI 2788: 11, 14, 15.
3 AI 2507: 2.
**Coin pendants**

The finds included seven coin pendants with holes and chains made of bronze rings. Two of the coins came to light when the block was opened in the laboratory. These were a schilling of the Livonian Order minted in Riga in the year 1539 during the reign of the Master of Livonian Order Hermann Brüggenei-Hasenkamp (Fig. 6: 1) and a farthing of the Bishopric of Ösel-Wiek, minted in Haapsalu in the year 1562 during the reign of Duke Magnus of Holstein (Fig. 6: 2). Five other coins were discovered by the metal detectorist from the ploughing layer. They were equipped with similar chains of
3–5 bronze rings as the coin pendants discovered in the block and therefore it is plausible that they too originate from the hoard. All the coins found with the help of metal detector are Swedish: an öre, minted in Stockholm during the reign of Gustav Vasa in the year 1523 (Fig. 6: 3); two farthings from the years 1565 and 1567 minted in Tallinn during the reign of Erik XIV (Fig. 6: 4, 5) and two schillings from the years 1562 and 1566 (Fig. 6: 6, 7).

Coin pendants have been used in Estonia to adorn head decorations (Kiudsoo 2002; Kiudsoo & Ratas 2005), necklaces and breast chains (Kiudsoo 2008).

**Beads**

Beads were the most numerous in the hoard. From the block and on the ground around the hoard there were 1495 beads. They have probably been part of one or more necklaces or head decorations.

Four main types of beads were found: 1) round glass beads with a core of red glass covered with a thin layer of dark (black or dark blue) glass (Fig. 7: 1); 2) blue cubo-octahedral glass beads (Fig. 7: 2); 3) annular beads made of green forest glass (Fig. 7: 3); and 4) round and cylindrical beads made of yellow glass (Fig. 7: 4). The two latter types of beads are called *biser* bead. These are very small beads that were used in necklaces and embroidery.
In addition, two fragments of beads with longitudinal ribs were obtained from the block. Two large, cubo-octahedral transparent beads made of soda glass (Fig. 7: 5) and found from the ground by metal detectorist have probably also been part of the hoard.

All the aforementioned beads are commonly found in Estonia from the hoards and also from rural cemeteries of the second half of the 16th century and beginning of the 17th century. Biser beads made of yellow glass were used in the territory of south-western Estonia already from the 14th century to adorn shawls and head decorations (see Laul & Valk 2007, 56, figs 51, 69).

**Rumbler bells**

At least nine casted rumbler bells with four petals and a little stone inside were found (Fig. 8). Four rumbler bells were found in the block where they seemed to have been in a chain with round black beads. Five similar bells were found in the vicinity of the hoard.

Such rumbler bells are used in necklaces found in the medieval burials of rural cemeteries of Southern Estonia (Valk 2001, 52). They are also found in the burials of rural cemeteries of the second half of the 16th century and beginning of the 17th century.

**Fragment of textile**

In addition to metal and glass artefacts a small piece of folded textile was found. Little beads were found on top of the fragment, as well as beneath and underneath it. The preserved fragment measured 2.7 cm in warp direction and 4.5 cm in weft direction. It was a plain-woven linen fabric of a slightly ribbed tabby. The weft yarns were more densely placed (15 yarns/cm) than the warp yarns (6 yarns/cm). All threads are single and z-spun. Similar fragments of plain-woven linen are common in other hoards of that time (e.g. Kihme4) and fragments of tabby linen are also found in medieval and early modern rural cemeteries.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The hoard, consisting of various silver, bronze and glass ornaments, had been placed to a wooden chest or round box. Only a part of the hoard was preserved in the assumingly original position – the upper part of the hoard had been wiped off by ploughing.

Considering the fact that jewellery in the hoard was typical to second half of 16th century and the determination of the latest coin (Sweden, Tallinn, Erik XIV, *ferding*, 1567) we may assume that the find has been deposited some time during the Livonian War (1558–1583). Since a number of hoards of that period have been discovered in the nearest surroundings of Sargvere (see Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 227–228), the fact seems to suggest some more specific and extensive perdition in the mentioned district. Perhaps it was the foray of Muscovites that led to the conquering of Paide in the first days of 1573 (Kiudsoo & Russow 2011, 229).

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4 PM 2056.
REFERENCES


**LIIVI SÕJA AEGNE AARE SARGVERE ASULAKOHALT JÄRVAMAALT**

_Andres Tvaari, Riina Rammo, Andres Vindi ja Mauri Kiudsoo_


Leiu kohale tehti 1 × 1 m kaevand. Aarde ümber kiht-kihilts sügavamale kaevates hakkas u 30 cm sügavusel maapinnast paistma leiu algalt asukohal paiknev osa. Leiu kogum võeti üles monoliidina ja toodi Tartu Ülikooli arheoloogilaboris (jn 2–3). Leiu puhastisid välja ja konserveerisid Andres Vindi ja Riina Rammo.

Juba varem oli detektorist leiu kohu ümbrite künkikihist leitud esemeid, mis suure tõenäosusega kuuluvad aarde juurde. Tõenäoliselt oli aare maetud hoonesse või selle vahetuses lähedusse.

Monoliidina üles võetud aaret välja puhastades selgus, et see koosneb peamiselt metallripatsitest ja klaashelmeest. Kuigi helmed ja ripatsid paiknesid kompaktset koos, ei olnud siiski võimalik kindlaks teha, kuidas need kunagi ehtis või ehetes paiknesid.

Väljapuhastatud aarde põhjas olgu rinnalehe all olev säilinud tänu vase konserveerivale toimele ööhue kiht puitu. Tõenäoliselt oli see jäänud puitanumast (vakast või kastist) milles esemed asetsed.

Aare suurimaks esemeks, oli hõbeplektik riinalehti (jn 4). Selle läbinõot on 9,8–9,9 cm ja seda kaunistab punktitud ja kohrutatud risti motiiv, mille keskel on kupp. Sama motiivi ja teostusega, arvatavasti sama meistri tehtud, riinalehti on Eestis leitud varemgi. Neist kahe leikuohad (Valga, Paide) jäädavad Sargverele üpris lähedale. Ühikesest madala högedasissaldusega plekstit kohrutatud ja punktitud ornamentiiga riinalehed on Eestis alalt leitud 16. saj teise poole aaret les üüpiesi koostisosaks. Kuna Sargvere aarde näol on tegemist tõenäoliselt enamuses laialt kuündt aardega, ei saa välistada, et algselt on aardes olnud rohkemgi riinalehti.

Aare lähedalt künkikihilte leiti madala högedasissaldusega plekstit Antoniuse risti kujuline ripats (jn 5) suurusega 6,8 × 5,5 cm. Varem on Eestist teada paarkümmend Antoniuse risti kujulise ripatsi leidu.


Kõige rohkem oli aades klaashelmeid. Monoliidist saadi ja aarde ümbrusest maapinnalt kokuti 1495 helmed (jn 7: 1–4). Lisaks saadi lejast kaks katki pikisoontega kaunistatud klaashelmest. Tõenäoliselt päritevad samast aardest ka kaks suurt läbipaiust vast värkist soodaklaasist oktakuubikujulist helmet (jn 7: 5), mis leiti aarde lähedusest maapinnalt.

Aardesse on kuulunud vähemalt üheksaa valatud neljalehelist pronkskuljust, mille sees on väike kivike (jn 8). Neli kulumist võestati välja monoliidist, kus need näisid olevat ühes kees koos mustade kerakujuliste helmesega. Sellised kulumiised on saadud ka külakaljuste 16. saj teise poole ja 17. saj alguse matustest.

Lisaks metalli- ja klaasemetele leiti monoliidi avamisel väike kokku murtud tekstiiikatike. Nii tekstiiikatike peal kui selle all ja vahel oli välkeiseid helmeid. Tegemist on linase kangaga, mida oli säilinud 2,7 cm lõimesuunas ja 4,5 cm koosseinas.

Aare on olnud puidust vakas või kastis. Arvestades, et kõik aardesse kuulunud ehted on tüüpilised 16. saj teisele poolele ja tuginesid hiliseima mündi määrangule (Rootsi, Tallinn, Erik XIV, veering, 1567), võib väita, et leid jää maapõue Liivi sõja (1558–1568) ajal. Kuna just Sargvere lähümbrusest on avastatud mitmed samaaegseid aardelede, osutab see piirkonna elanikke tabanud hävingule. Ehk olik selleks moskoviitide rüüteretk, mis pääsid Paide vallutamisega 1573. a esimestel päevadel.