



Additions to the Kirimäe hoard of 2021

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In October 2021, a silver hoard from the early 13th century, consisting of 124 coins, several ornaments and bars was unearthed in Kirimäe village, Lääne County by hobby searchers (see Leimus & Saage 2022). In 2022 the hobby searchers unearthed a further 92 coins plus a silver neck-ring with a plate terminal that was found separately, and five fragments cut from silver bars. The spatial distribution of the coins and artefacts was not documented this time, but it roughly corresponds to the area where the finds occurred in 2021. The finds are now part of the numismatic collection of Estonian History Museum, stored under inventory number AM 41261.

Of the coins, 35 were minted in the Holy Roman Empire, two in England, 54 in Sweden and one in Livonia (Table 1). More tiny Visby pennies were found in relative terms than in 2021, which is obviously a consequence of thorough and careful detecting. This meant that the total weight of the coins found in 2022 was significantly lower at 55.6 g in total than the 98.3 g of those found in 2021.

Table 1. Coins found in 2022

Tabel 1. 2022. aastal leitud mündid

Compiled by / Koostanud: Ivar Leimus

No. / Nr	Country / maa	Mint / müntla	Ruler / valitseja	Years / aastad	Reference / viide	Weight g / kaal gr
1	Germany	Soest	'Otto III'	1000–1030	Häv. 73, 849–850	1.27
2–12	Germany	Soest	Archb. Philipp	1167–1191	Häv. 882	1.41, 1.39, 1.39, 1.38, 1.36, 1.35, 1.34, 1.33, 1.31, 1.28, 0.98 (frag.)
13	Germany	Soest	Archb. Philipp	1167–1191	Häv. 895	0.61 (obol)
14–18	Germany	Soest	Archb. Adolf	1193–1205	Häv. 918	1.42, 1.40, 1.37, 1.24, 1.22
19	Germany	Imitation of Soest, Korbach	Anonymous	c. 1185–1190	Krusy 1986, 3 var. Obv.+ODDO+IVIIP2NG	1.33
20–21	Germany	Imitation of Soest, Korbach/Schwalenberg?	Anonymous	c. 1195–1200	Häv. 925; Krusy 1986, 38	1.37, 1.33
22	Germany	Imitation of Soest, Lippstadt/Lemgo	Archb. Adolf	1193–1205	Häv. 929	1.33
23–24	Germany	Münster	B. Hermann II	1173–1203	Ilisch 1994, 65, no. 1	1.69, 1.44
25–27	Germany	Cologne	Archb. Philipp	1190–1191	Häv. 573	1.38, 1.35, 1.29

No. / Nr	Country / maa	Mint / müntla	Ruler / valitseja	Years / aastad	Reference / viide	Weight g / kaal gr
28–29	Germany	Cologne	Archb. Adolf	1193–1205	Häv. 588	1.44, 1.40
30	Germany	Imitation of Cologne, Wipperfürth?	Counts of Berg Adolf V?	1189–1219	Häv. 603	1.44
31	Germany	Unknown mint (Dortmund?)	Emp. Friedrich I	1152–1190	Menadier 1913, no. 26; Ilisch 1980, 24; Diry 2021, 6.2.2	1.47
32	Germany	Bremen	B. Hartwich II?	1184–1207	Attribution by Frank Berger	0.60
33	Germany	Lüneburg	Duke Henry / William of Lüneburg	1195–1213/1227	Berger 1993, 464–473	0.59
34	Germany	Magdeburg	Archb. Konrad	1134–1142	Dbg. 601 (Naumburg); Mehl 2011, 113	0.51 (frg.)
35	Germany	Magdeburg	Archb. Ludolf	1192–1205	Mehl 2011, 357	0.49 (frg.)
36	England	York	Aethelred II, Crux	991–997		0.91 (frg.)
37	England	Northampton, Filip	Henry II, Short cross, Cl. 1a2	1180–c.1189		1.41 (notch in edge)
38	Sweden	Sigtuna	Knut Eriksson	c. 1180–1200	LL IA:1a; MGL A1	0.23
39	Sweden	Sigtuna	Knut Eriksson	c. 1180–1200	LL IA:7b; MGL B10	0.33
40	Sweden	Sigtuna	Knut Eriksson	c. 1180–1200	LL IA:9a; MGL B11	0.28
41	Sweden	Sigtuna	Archb. of Uppsala	c. 1190–1210	LL IB:1a; MGL, p. 74–75	0.31
42–45	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1150–1170?	Myrberg 2008, I:1	0.21, 0.17, 0.17, 0.15
46–48	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1170–1180?	Myrberg 2008, I:2	0.21, 0.19, 0.17
49–56	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1170–1200?	Myrberg 2008, I:2–5	0.20, 0.19, 0.19, 0.18, 0.17, 0.15, 0.15, 0.14
57	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1180–1190?	Myrberg 2008, I:3	0.17
58–60	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1180–1210?	Myrberg 2008, I:3–5	0.21, 0.18, 0.14
61–65	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1190–1200?	Myrberg 2008, I:4	0.20, 0.20, 0.17, 0.16, 0.16
66–68	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1190–1200?	Myrberg 2008, I:4?	0.18, 0.18, 0.17
69	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1200–1210?	Myrberg 2008, I:5	0.13
70–71	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1200–1210?	Myrberg 2008, I:5?	0.18, 0.17
72	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1200–1210?	Myrberg 2008, I/Ib?	0.18
73–88	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1170–1200?	Myrberg 2008, I:?	0.22, 0.20, 0.19, 0.18, 0.17, 0.17, 0.16, 0.16, 0.15, 0.15, 0.15, 0.15, 0.15, 0.14, 0.14, 0.07 (cut halfpenny)
89–90	Sweden	Visby	Anonymous	1200–1210?	Cf. Myrberg 2008, I	0.19, 0.13
91	Sweden	Unknown mint		c. 1190–1200	Schive 1865, VI:30; Hildebrand 1887, 462	0.15
92	Livonia	Riga	B. Albert	1201–1229		0.18

The geographical distribution of the German coins is remarkably similar to that of the coins found in 2021, as 17 deniers come from Soest, two imitations of Soest come from Korbach or Schwalenberg and one from Lippstadt or Lemgo. One Soest imitation is of uncertain origin. Two coins were minted in Münster and five in Cologne, while the sole Cologne imitation was probably made in Wipperfürth, and one denier issued in the name of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa was probably minted in Dortmund. Two coins were struck in Magdeburg, one

bracteate was from Lüneburg, and another one most probably came from Bremen (Fig. 1). The type of the coin from Bremen seems not to have been described before. Although bracteates of a very similar design have been attributed to Bishops Gerhard I or II (1210–1219–1225) (cf. Berger 1993, nos 5–10, especially, no. 5), Frank Berger (pers. comm.) dates the Kirimäe coin to the reign of Bishop Hartwich (1184–1207), which seems more plausible given the chronological composition of the hoard.

Lüneburg and Bremen are the two only mints that were not represented in the earlier part of the hoard, though this is by no means certain. In my previous publication (Leimus & Saage 2022, table 1) I misattributed coin no. 67, whose identification is not doubtless, but which probably came from Bremen or Hamburg (Jesse 1928, no. 100; Berger 1993, no. 199; Künker, eLive Auction 65, lot 7896). Berger dates the coin to around 1202–1220, but the experts from Künker prefer here the years of Archbishop Hartwich II in 1184–1207, which is more likely given the poor state of the coin. The coin fragment no. 69 that remained unidentified in the previous publication because of its poor condition should also be recalled once more, since it may, or equally may not, have been struck in Lüneburg somewhere between about 1195 and 1227 (cf. Berger 1993, no. 511).

It consequently seems that there are a few bracteates that may lie beyond the chronological boundaries set for the hoard by the datable coins from Soest and Cologne. It should, however, be remembered that the bracteates of the period and the area mostly do not bear legible inscriptions, if they have any at all, and this makes their attribution ambivalent. The overall composition of a find must therefore be considered first, and in this case, that speaks in favour of an earlier dating.

Of the two English pennies, the Anglo-Saxon coin was struck in York, while the Plantagenet one came from Northampton (Fig. 2).

The Swedish coins include three that the general modern view would consider as coming from Sigtuna, dating from the late 12th century. Two bracteates of Knut Eriksson are of common types, but there is also a bracteate that depicts a king holding a sceptre with fleur-de-lys in one hand and a church building in the other (Fig. 3). Different



Fig. 1. Bremen, Bishop Hartwich II (1184–1207).
Jn 1. Bremen, piiskop Hartwich II (1184–1207).
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 2. England, Henry II, Short cross, cl. 1a2, Northampton, moneyer Filip.
Jn 2. Inglismaa, Henry II, Short cross, kl 1a2, Northampton, müntmeister Filip.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 3. Sweden, Knut Eriksson, Sigtuna, ca. 1180–1200.
Jn 3. Rootsi, Knut Eriksson, Sigtuna, u 1180–1200.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

interpretations have been offered for the characters VIA (or IAV) around the king (Cf. MGL, 63–65, fig. 45; Jonsson 1995, 56), but no convincing explanation has yet been proposed. The characters struck onto coins of the period are anyway very often meaningless, but in this case the design comes from the beginning of the series, when inscriptions are mostly legible.

Finally, there is a rare ecclesiastical penny (Fig. 4) that seems to have been minted in Sigtuna as well, even though it was issued by an archbishop from Uppsala between about 1190 and 1210 (type LL Ia:1a; MGL, 74–75, fig. 58). It is significant that all the coins of the type depicted in publications available to the author as well as the coin that was recently sold in a Swedish auction (<https://www.numisbids.com/n.php?p=lot&sid=4733&lot=11>) were struck using the very same die. This should mean that the total output of these bracteates must have been quite limited.

There are 49 half-bracteates from Visby in the hoard.¹ Remarkable among them is a cut halfpenny, something that is rare in general, though it has still been recorded in a few cases. There was, for instance such a halfpenny in the grave find of Skänninge (MGL, 79). Even though the Visby coins are tiny and light at 0.17–0.19 g on average, the fact that they were still cut proves that there was a need for even smaller denominations for everyday business.

There is yet another coin that is remarkably close to the Visby ones in its weight standard and minting technology, but which bears ornamental images of its own (Fig. 5). Such coins have previously been found on Gotland, in mainland Sweden, in Norway and in Estonia in



Fig. 4. Sweden, archbishop of Uppsala, Sigtuna, ca. 1190–1210.

Jn 4. Rootsi, Uppsala peapiiskop, Sigtuna, u 1190–1210.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 5. Sweden, mint? (Gotland?), ca. 1190–1200.

Jn 5. Rootsi, teadmata müntla (Ojamaa?), u 1190–1200.
Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

the hoard of Tamse, Muhu island (Molvyygin 1970, 127, nos 342–343, fig. 1: 6), and always in small numbers. As a rule, they occur in hoards with a *tpq* of 1193 or later. The origin of this coin type remains uncertain. Nanouschka Myrberg recognised the lily-motif in the coin's ornaments as a symbol of German merchants who operated on Gotland and visited it in the period under discussion (Myrberg 2008, 121–122).

Last but not least, the collection includes a nicely minted and exceptionally well-preserved bracteate of Bishop Albert of Riga that was unearthed among the other coins (Fig. 6).

The geographical composition of the latter part of the hoard is thus almost identical to that of the coins found in 2021, and the same applies for the dating of the two parts of the hoard. Only two of the coins found in 2022 date from the Viking Age, these being a denier of Soest from the beginning of the 11th century and an Anglo-Saxon Crux penny from York that dates from around 991–997. The coins were overwhelmingly minted

¹ The author thanks Dr Nanouschka Myrberg Burström for reviewing the identifications of Gotland coins of the Kirimäe hoard.

between the last third or quarter of the 12th century and the early 13th century. The last minted coin in the recent parcel that can be dated with some certainty is a penny of Bishop Albert of Riga. It is also possible that a bracteate from Visby with a hatched square may be from the first decade of the 13th century, like some of the bracteates from North Germany. This means the new coins do not alter the dating of the hoard to the early 13th century.

As mentioned at the beginning, five pieces of silver bars were found in 2022 alongside the coins (Fig. 7, Table 2). All of them have a semi-circular cross-section except the smallest one, whose initial shape cannot be established. Three of the other four fragments are thicker and one thinner, and the upper surface of one of the thicker fragments has been hammered.

All the fragments except the thinnest one are too short for their original length and weight to be determined. The parameters of the thin fragment at 72 mm and 30.46 g suggest that it may originally have weighed around 50 g, which fits well with the presumed standard of 100 grams for a bar, and with the fragments discovered in 2021 (Leimus & Saage 2022, 102). All the fragments found in 2022 bear pecks as proof marks, and the thinnest piece has the fewest, making it probably the most recent. It has been proposed that bars shaped like this were most probably manufactured on Gotland (Leimus & Saage 2022, 103) whereas the origin of the other, thicker fragments remains unknown.



Fig. 6. Livonia, Bishop Albert, Riga, ca. 1201–1229.
 Jn 6. Liivimaa, piiskop Albert, Riia, u 1201–1229.
 Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus



Fig. 7. Silver bars from the hoard of Kirimäe, unearthed in 2022.
 Jn 7. Kirimäe aarde 2022. aastal leitud hõbedakangid.
 Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

Table 2. Silver bars found in 2022
 Tabel 2. 2022. aastal leitud hõbedakangid
 Compiled by / Koostanud: Ivar Leimus

No. on Fig. 7 / Nr jn 7-l	Shape, cross section / Kuju, läbilõige	Length (mm) / Pikkus (mm)	Weight (g) / Kaal (g)	Pecks / Täkked
1	Thinner bar, semi-circular	72	30,46	2
2	Thicker bar, semi-circular	36	29,67	8
3	Thicker bar, semi-circular, hammered	19	15,41	10
4	Thicker bar, semi-circular	14,5	7,84	3
5	Fig.		1,24	1



Fig. 8. Neck-ring and its terminal, unearthed in 2022.
Jn 8. 2022. aastal leitud kaelavõru ja selle otsaplaat.
 Photo / Foto: Ivar Leimus

The neck-ring with a plate terminal (Fig. 8) weighs 137.10 g and was manufactured by plaiting together two thicker wires and two thinner ones, where the thinner wires each consist in turn of two even thinner wires. The terminal is decorated with rows of rough notches exactly like on the terminal of the neck-ring that was found in 2021. It is highly probable that both the terminals came from the same neck-ring, meaning the ornament is now fully complete. That confirms the suggestion expressed in the paper on the first part of the hoard that the ornaments in it have been deformed as a consequence of agricultural work rather than being broken deliberately as hacksilver (Leimus & Saage 2022, 105). The apparently wrinkled appearance of the thin German bracteates and many of the tiny Gotland pennies in the find points in the same direction, while the thicker and stronger deniers have been preserved impeccably.

In summary, the additional coins detected in the findspot of Kirimäe confirm that the hoard dates from the beginning of the 13th century. The condition of the ornaments and thinner coins proves that they have not been damaged deliberately, but have been

deformed and scattered by the passage of heavy machinery. In total, 215 coins with 153.9 g of silver have so far been gathered in two years, together with 557.2 g of silver bars and 202.2 g of ornaments, meaning that altogether 913.3 g of silver has been unearthed so far. That makes the hoard of Kirimäe one of the richest treasures of the period, though it still falls short the Mäetaguse hoard, which may have contained around 2 kg of silver (Hausmann 1914). All the other few Estonian coin and mixed hoards of the period recorded so far are significantly smaller (Molvõgin 1985, 128).² Only occasionally, they contain single silver bars (see Tõnisson 1962, 226; 1970, 223).

² There are several Estonian silver hoards from the 13th c. consisting exclusively of ornaments that cannot be dated with sufficient precision (see Tõnisson 1962, especially 234). Thus, the exact number of treasures of the Kirimäe-period (ca. 1190–1220) remains uncertain.

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LISANDUSI 2021. AASTAL AVASTATUD KIRIMÄE AARDELE

Ivar Leimus

2022. aastal jätkasid asjaarmastajad otsinguid aasta varem avastatud Kirimäe aarde leiukohal. Seekord toodi päevavalgele 92 münti, viis hõbedakangide tükkide ja hõbedast kaelavõru koos eraldi leitud otsaplaadiga. Müntidest 35 on löödud Saksamaal, kaks Inglismaal, 54 Rootsis ja üks Liivimaal (tabel 1).

Nii oma müntide koosseisult kui ka nende dateeringult vastab aarde jätkukogum varem leitule. Ainsa

erinevusena avastati 2022. aastal suhteliselt rohkem tillukesi Visby penne, mis on nähtavasti tingitud hoolikamatest otsingutest või paremast otsinguvahendist.

2022. aastal leitud hõbedakangide fragmendid (jn 7, tabel 2) on kõik poolumara ristlõikega, v.a kõige väiksem tükk, mille algset kuju pole võimalik aimata. Leitud kaelavõru (jn 8) on hõbetratidest punutud kaare ja robustselt ornameenteeritud plaat-

otsaga. Nimetatud plaatots sarnaneb detailideni 2021. aastal avastatud kaelavõru otsale. Väga tõenäoliselt kuulus ka too plaatots sama kaelavõru juurde. See omakorda kinnitab Kirimäe aarde esimese osa publikatsioonis avaldatud arvamust, et leitud ehtekatken did pole sündinud kaaluhõbeda sihiliku tükeldamise tulemusel, vaid põllutööde käigus raske tehnika all.

Kahe aastaga leiti Kirimäelt 215 münti ehk 153,9 g mündihõbedat, millele lisandub 557,2 g hõbedakange ja 202,2 g ehteid, kokku 913,3 g hõbedat. See teeb Kirimäe hõbevarast antud ajajärgu ühe rikkalikuma münte sisaldava aarde. Oma kogukuselt jääb see maha ainult Mäetaguse leiust, kus võis olla umbes kaks kilo hõbedat.