

THE POPULATION OF THE SOUTHEAST SHORE OF THE GULF OF FINLAND AND ITS CONTACTS WITH REGIONS OF THE BALTIC SEA IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM AD

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Abstract

In recent years, the area to the southeast of the Gulf of Finland (on the Izhora plateau and in the lower reaches of the River Luga) has opened up a number of archaeological sites dating from the first to the tenth century AD. There are stone graves from the Pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age, settlements with scratched ceramics, cremation burials from the Migration Period, hill-forts and cemeteries from the Viking Age. These sites can be built into a cultural and chronological sequence. Finds from these sites are very similar to objects from Estonia and southwest Finland. At the beginning of the second millennium, Medieval Russian culture, which levelled local cultural characteristics, spread on the Izhora plateau.

Key words: East Baltic, Gulf of Finland, Izhora plateau, Pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age, Migration Period, Viking Age, Medieval Russian culture.

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Introduction

The area to the southeast of the Gulf of Finland has traditionally been seen in Russian historiography as a special place. Here, the Izhora Heights (Izhora plateau) are bounded by the Gulf of Finland in the north, and by marshy river valleys on the other sides. The Izhora plateau is a flat karstic elevation with fertile soil, but almost no rivers or lakes; water sources are concentrated on the edges of the plateau.

This area is generally regarded as an area of habitation by Baltic-Finnish peoples (Vod' and Izhora), and as an area of Slavic-Finnish contact from the beginning of the second millennium AD.

Earlier materials have been found in recent years: more than 30 sites and stray finds from the first millennium AD (Fig. 1). New data was obtained from field research by E.R. Mikhaylova, I.A. Fedorov, P.E. Sorokin, M.A. Iushkova, I.V. Stasiuk, D.V. Gerasimov, K.V. Shmelev, S.V. Belskii et al. (eg. Sorokin, Sharov 2008; Iushkova 2010; Khavrin, Iushkova, Kulešov 2011; Sharov et al. 2011, 2015; Iushkova, Kuleshov 2011; Stasiuk 2012; Fedorov, Murzenkov 2012; Sharov 2013; Sorokin, Iushkova 2014; Mikhaylova, Fedorov 2011; Iushkova, Shirobokov 2014; Mikhaylova 2015).

These materials make it possible to give a preliminary sketch of the development of local antiquities during the first millennium AD, focusing on sites studied in recent years.

One of the pressing problems of East European chronology is the question of the correctness of using chronological scales designed for neighbouring regions for its territory. The problem is to define a cultural content of specific periods for Eastern Europe ('Roman period' vs. 'period of Roman influences', 'Merovingian Period' vs. 'pre-Viking Age' etc), as well as to determine the exact dates of specific artefacts and assemblages. Leaving this discussion beyond the article, most of the dates given below in 'the centuries of our era' are aware of the conventionality of this approach.

The Pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age

The earliest site known at present is the bottom layer of burials in the stone grave field at Udosołovo (see Appendix; Fig. 1).

The destroyed cemetery is located by the source of a small river, on the edge of a field. Some chance finds are known from here (Sorokin, Sharov 2008, 171; Iushkova 2010, 322ff.), and in 2013 the author excavated a test trench in the cemetery (Mikhaylova 2015, 177ff.).

The history of the cemetery includes two stages.

The bottom layer of burials represents some individual inhumations in stone cists (Fig. 2A). At first, the place for the cemetery was covered with flat pieces of limestone; stones were placed in three or four layers. Numerous small fragments of pottery were collected among the stones and under them. Most of the

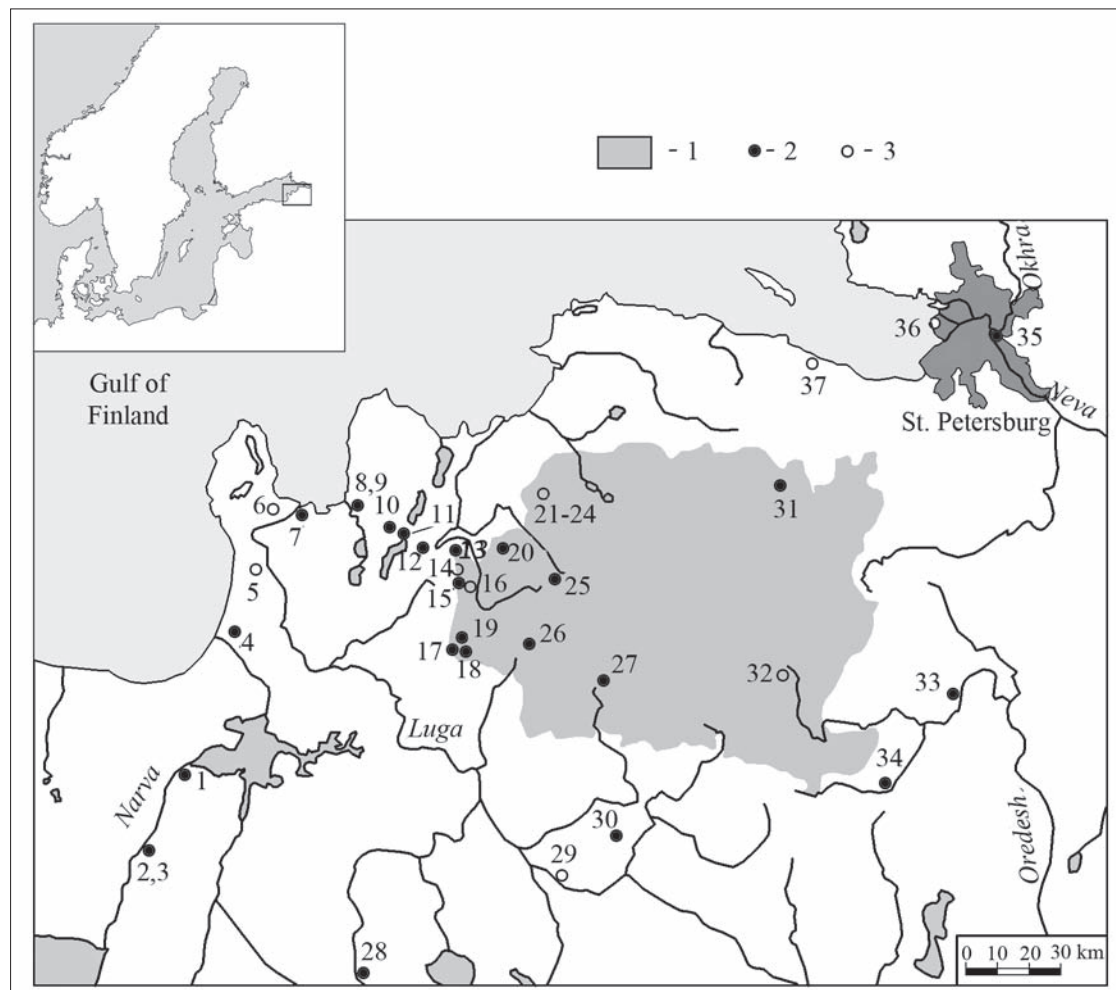


Fig. 1. A map of sites and finds from the first millennium AD in the area to the southeast of the Gulf of Finland (the number on the map corresponds to the number in the Annex). 1 The Izhora plateau area; 2 archaeological sites; 3 hoards and separate objects.

fragments are scratched, some have small circular pits (Fig. 3.1-7).

Six graves in stone cists were found on this foundation. The skeletons were laid in a row, stretched out on their backs, the heads to the north. The cists were made from small limestone slabs (the same as in the foundation) set on edge.

The cists are preserved only in fragments: parts of the walls, in a few cases pieces of coverings. The bones are crushed into pieces by the weight of the stones and the soil, some bones were displaced.

It is interesting that almost all the buried individuals were men (determined by Ivan Shirobokov):

burial 1: probably a man, 25–35 years

burial 2: probably a man, 30–40 years

burial 3: an adult, older than 30 years

burial 4: a man, 20–40 years

burial 5: probably a man, 20–40 years

burial 6: an adolescent

Only a few items were found in the graves: a narrow bronze bracelet, a javelin head, a piece of an iron plate (Fig. 2B). The most interesting find comes from a burial 3: a socketed javelin head with a short leaf-shaped blade was lying at the feet of the buried individual, across a stone cist. Traces of wood remained inside the socket: probably the javelin was broken to put it in the grave. A narrow bracelet with a segmental section has analogues in stone graves of northeast Estonia, where these bracelets are known from the first century, although most typically from the third to fourth centuries (Schmiedehelm 1955, 34, 81, Figs. 5.7, 18.8).

Burials in stone cists are well known in the east Baltic from the Bronze Age, but they are different. Every single cist was usually deepened into the ground, and surrounded by a stone pavement; burials were often collective (Lang 2007, 147ff.; Mägi 2007).

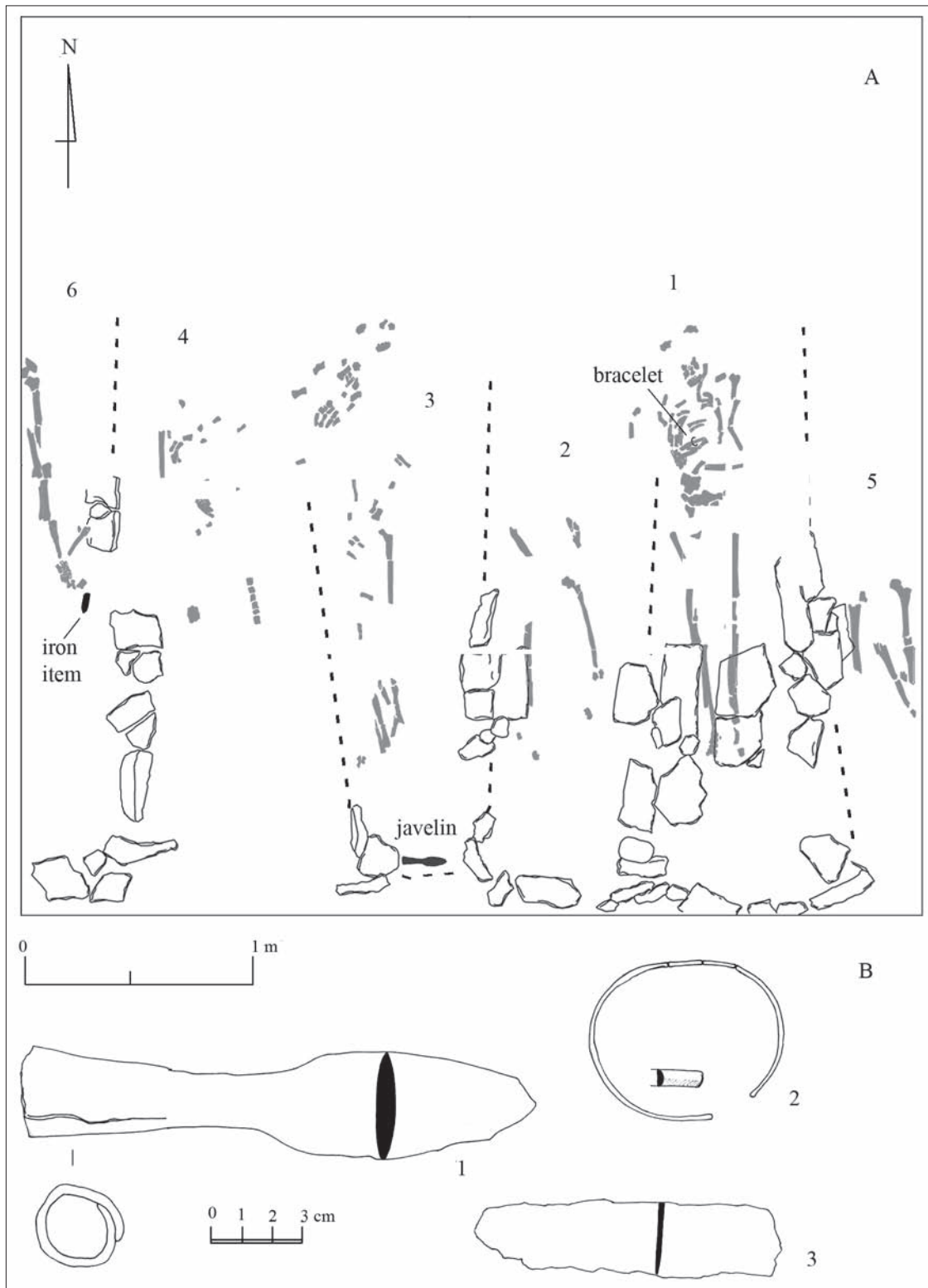


Fig. 2. The stone grave-field at Udosolovo, the bottom layer of burials. A a plan of the excavation area at the level of the destroyed stone cists; B objects from burials: 1 burial 3; 2 burial 1; 3 burial 6 (1, 3 iron; 2 bronze; drawings by the author).

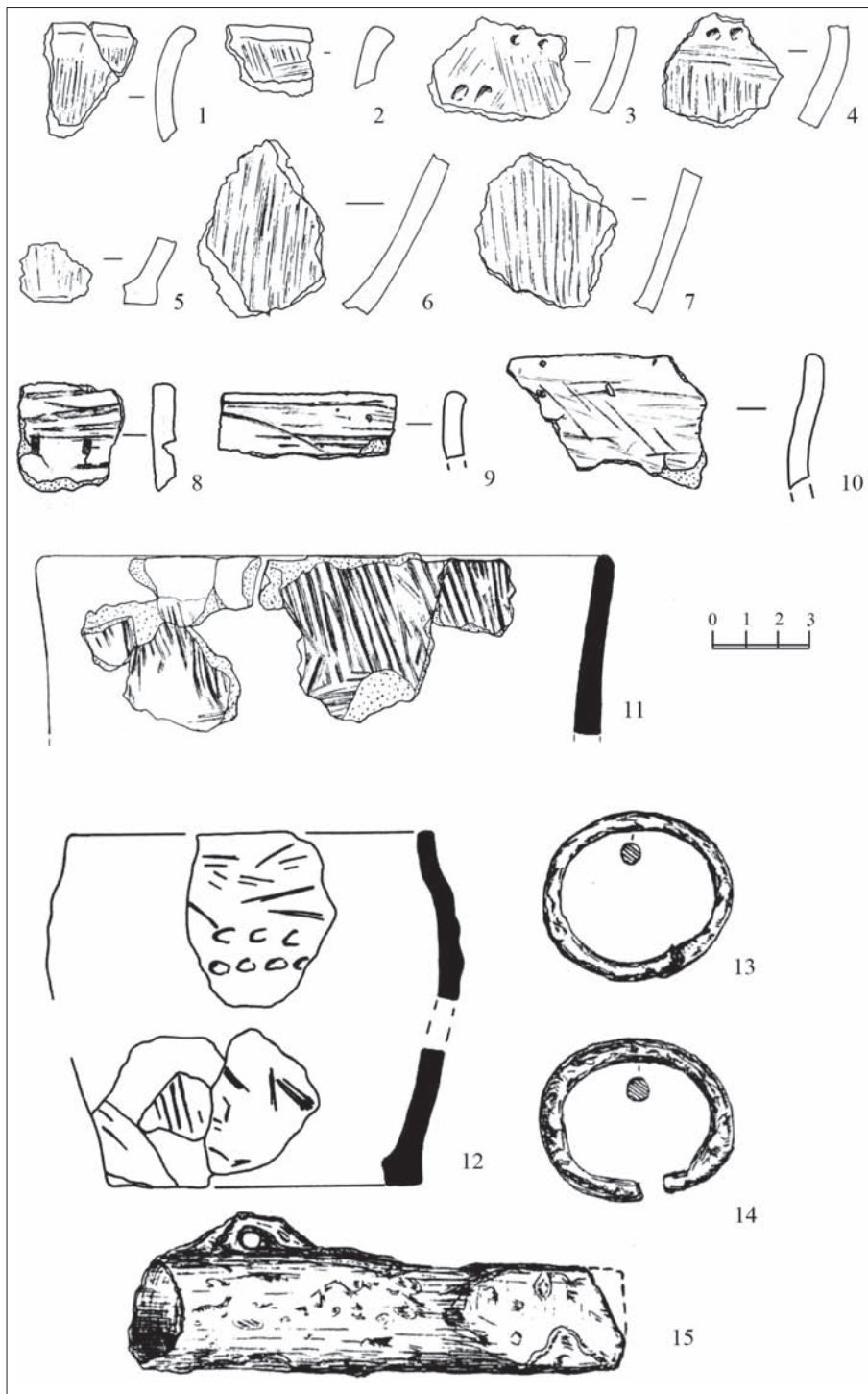


Fig. 3. Objects from sites with scratched ceramics.

1–7 Udosołovo, buried soil and pavement; 8–10 Ryattel’; 11 Okhta (no scale); 12–15 Valgovitsy (1–12 ceramics, 13–15 iron; 1–7 drawings by the author; 8–10 drawings by I.A. Fyodorov; 11 after Sorokin, et al. 2011; 12–15 after Yushkova 2010).

The stone-cist graves from the mid-first millennium BC to the first century AD in northeast Estonia are geographically closest to Udosołovo (Schmiedehelm 1955, 19–46, 53). These are low circular mounds, under which are cists built of limestone slabs. One cist usually contained the remains of one or more persons (cremation or inhumation), most of the skeletons were laid on the back, the head to the north. In some cases, another one was attached to the central cist, in other cases burials were located around the central cist in different directions. Rows of individual stone cists as in Udosołovo were not found in northeast Estonia.

Valgovitsy cemetery, located nearby, was probably similar to Udosołovo (see Appendix; Fig. 1). Evgenii Riabinin, studying the Medieval cemetery with barrows and *zhalniks* (Medieval pit-graves surrounded with stones) here, unearthed the remains of a stone pavement with separate fences made of boulders. He found a bracelet with a segmental section (as in Udosołovo), an iron celt, two iron bracelets, and ceramics with a scratched surface (Fig. 3.12–15). Burials were not found during the excavations, and the researcher has suggested that it was inhumations, and they are not preserved in the sandy soil. The author of the

excavations has suggested a burial date of the first to the second centuries AD (Riabinin 1994). Later, V.S. Kuleshov clarified the dating: the first century BC to the middle of the first century AD (Kuleshov 2005, 186ff.).

Similar cemeteries were also investigated by Mati Mandel at Poanse in western Estonia. The inhumation burials were arranged in a row on a stone pavement, and placed in stone fences (several skeletons in each fence). These cemeteries date to the Pre-Roman Iron Age up to the turn of the eras (Mandel 2000). The bottom layer of burials in Udosołovo cemetery can also probably be dated to the Late Pre-Roman Age (i.e. the first century BC to the first half of the first century AD).

Settlements from this time have not been studied very well yet.

Excavations were conducted only on the Vtyrka (Pillovo-2) hill-fort (see Appendix; Fig. 1). Smooth, textile and scratched pottery, as well as a few items of metal and polished slate, were found in the lower layer there (Mikhaylova 2015, 183).

Similar ceramics were found in the basin of the lower reaches of the Luga on several sites, still only known as a result of field-walking research (Riattel', Koskolovo 1, Koskolovo 4; see Appendix; Fig. 1) (Fedorov, Murzenkov 2012), as well as in Kerstovo 1 cemetery (see below) (Iushkova, Kuleshov 2010, 222). In addition, scratched and smooth pottery was found during excavations on Okhta in St Petersburg (Appendix; Fig. 1) (Sorokin et al. 2011, 371ff.) (Fig. 3.8-11).

A combination of scratched, textile and smooth pottery is found in the cultural layers of the dwelling sites of the east Baltic and the forest zone of Eastern Europe up to the first centuries AD (Schmiedehelm 1955, 169ff.; Shnorenko 1961, 110; Vasko 1991, 123; Lang 2007, 126-136; Islanova 2008, 29ff., 37; Krenke 2011, 115). Unfortunately, scratched and textile ceramics are represented in sites in the region under consideration only as fragments, the whole forms cannot always be reconstructed. A detailed study of these settlements is the subject of future research.

The Early Roman period is represented at the Izhora Heights by several graves with stone fences (*tarand-graves*), as well as hoards (two coin hoards, one mixed hoard, and separate coins). Excavations of burial grounds with stone fences were conducted by E.A. Riabinin (1994) and M.A. Iushkova (2015). The investigated sites are not from the same time: the cemetery at Valgovitsy should apparently be dated from the first century BC to the first half of the first century AD, and is synchronous with the lower layer of burials in the cemetery at Udosołovo.

The burial sites Velikino, Kerstovo-1 (Novoselki) and Malli are characterised by cremations inside the fences (see Appendix; Fig. 1). They date from the first to the early third centuries AD, according to the items found (Iushkova 2015, 188ff.; Kuleshov 2005, 186ff.). It found rows attached to each other by stone fences with burnt bones mixed with gravel and stones inside. It has been noted as the remains of cremations outside, and inhumation (possibly secondary). The grave goods are characterised by ornaments made of bronze and iron (bracelets, pins, mounts, brooches, etc), weapons (spears), household items (knives, scythes, celts, knives-cleavers, razors), and glass beads. Similar cemeteries with fences existed in the first centuries AD in the eastern Baltic; they are characteristic of southwest Finland, Estonia, and northern Latvia.

Another cemetery, Ratchino, was apparently destroyed in ancient times, and there is no data about its structure or internal organisation (see Appendix; Fig. 1). During excavations of later burial barrows, some bronze fibulae, an iron knife, a cleaver, and perhaps a piece of a spear were collected here in the mixed layer (Fig. 4.1-3). A few similar brooches and fragments of bracelets were found accidentally in the same place. All the items can be dated from the last third of the first century to the third century (Stasiuk 2012, 66).

Two coin hoards and one mixed hoard from the vicinity of the village of Kopor'e relate to the same period (Sharov et al. 2011, 2015; Khavrin et al. 2011) (see Appendix; Fig. 1).

The top layer of burials in the above Udosołovo cemetery should be dated somewhat later than other cemeteries. It is a scattering of cremated bones, mixed with gravel and soil, lying directly under the present turf. Between the two stages of the history of the cemetery, there was a chronological gap, during which the stone cists were destroyed. No stone structures have been found in the top layer of burials (Mikhaylova 2015, 181). Similar deposits of calcified bones in a layer of earth and rubble over stone cists with burials have been seen in some burial mounds in northeast Estonia (Schmiedehelm 1955, 26, 29).

In contrast to the bottom layer of burials, there is almost no pottery in the upper one, but there are numerous items made of metal, often melted: an iron razor, iron knives, spirals of bronze wire, pieces of narrow bronze bracelets, a fragment of a silver neck-ring (Fig. 4.11-25). An accidental find of a fragment of a brooch with red enamel is probably also connected with the upper layer of burials (Sorokin, Sharov 2008, Fig. 2.3) (Fig. 4.26).

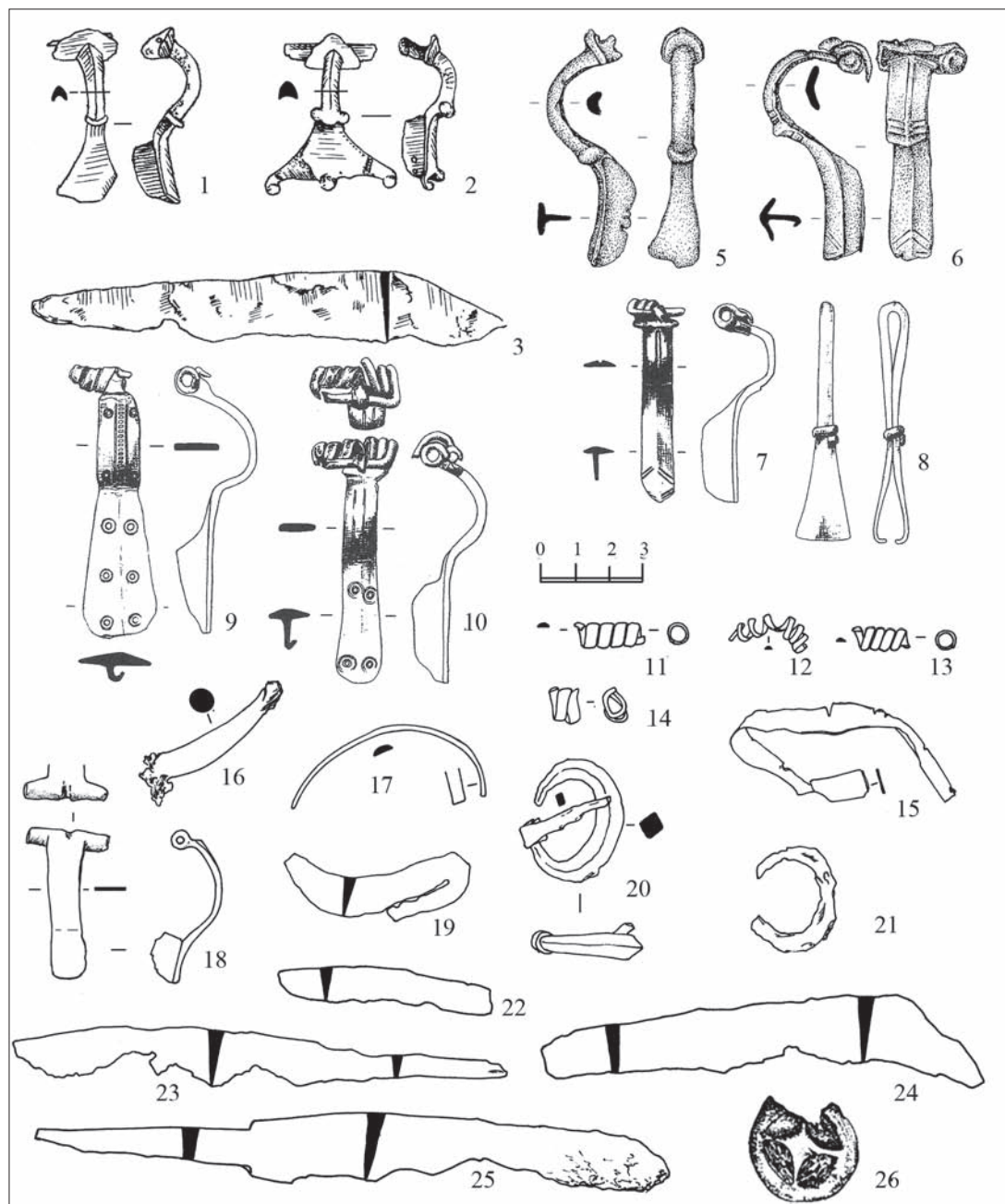


Fig. 4. Objects from Roman Iron Age sites. 1–3 Ratchino; 5, 6 Voynosolovo; 7–10 Georgievskij; 11–20 Udosołovo, upper layer of burials; 21–26 Udosołovo, stray finds (1, 2, 5–7, 9–15, 17, 18 bronze; 3, 8, 19–25 iron; 16 silver; 26 bronze, enamel; 1–3 after Stasiuk, Iushkova 2012; 5–10 after Sorokin, Yushkova 2014; 11–25 drawings by the author; 26 after Sorokin, Sharov 2008).

Finds from the layer with cremations are similar to ones from *tarand*-graves in northern Estonia, and allow us to date the assemblage to the third century AD, or even later. An oval iron buckle with a short tongue and a bronze hinged fibula with a plate bow (apparently with an iron needle) are most indicative (Fig. 4.18, 20). The buckle is close to buckles of group H (type 11) by Renata Madyda-Legutko; these buckles appeared in Central Europe at the turn of steps C₁ and C₂, and existed until the early phase of the Migration Period (Madyda-Legutko 1986, 63ff.). The plate fibula

with a hinge is similar to one found in the *tarand*-grave at Pada. M. Shmidehelm proposed to date it to the third century, or even perhaps the fourth century (Schmiedehelm 1955, 116, Fig. 27.8).

A stray find of a fibula near the village of Voynosolovo can also be attributed to the third century (Sorokin, Iushkova 2014, 315ff.). No assemblages or stray finds have yet appeared towards the southeast of the Gulf of Finland which could be reliably dated to the fourth century.

The Migration and Merovingian periods

At present, the most investigated site from this period is the cemetery at Malli (Kerstovo-2), studied by M.A. Iushkova (see Appendix; Fig. 1). A cemetery there with stone fences was overlaid with a layer of earth and broken stone containing burnt bones and numerous items from the fifth to the seventh centuries (Iushkova 2015, 195; Iushkova, Shirobokov 2014). The grave goods from Malli are represented by belt buckles and strap-ends, bronze ornaments and items of clothing (bracelets, pins, chains, etc), iron objects (a razor, tweezers, awls), blue glass beads, and other items (Fig. 5.1-14). One of the belt buckles is similar to one found in the upper layer of a burial at Udosolovo. I.V. Stasiuk also published stray finds of weaponry from the sixth to the seventh centuries from Malli (2012, 68-71) (Fig. 5.15-22).

In addition to the cemetery at Malli, two more sites with cremations from the fifth to the seventh centuries are known at present, to the east of the River Narva. They are the burial ground at Kommunar, and the single burial at Rosson'-11. The burial ground at Toila in northeast Estonia, where the lower layer of burials within stone fences was overlapped with cremations from the sixth to the ninth centuries, is also a close parallel (Schmiedehelm 1955, 53, 60).

The cemetery near the village of Kommunar is located in the middle of an extensive field, stretching along the banks of the River Solka (see Appendix; Fig. 1). Not far from it is the Kerstovo-1 burial ground, and the Malli (Kerstovo-2) burial ground is located on the opposite bank of the river. The cemetery at Kommunar was identified from stray finds and calcified bones (Mikhaylova, Fedorov 2011). A conglomeration of granite boulders under the arable layer was discovered in a prospecting pit in the southern part of the cemetery: perhaps it was part of the stone structure. Burnt bones, small fragments of pottery and a few metal objects were collected in the pit. The stray finds from the cemetery are heterogeneous. Some of them belong to the modern or contemporary age (coins from 1795 and 1905, decorated bells from a horse harness). Some could not be dated precisely (e.g. a piece of a copper cauldron). Items that can be associated with a burial ground are presented with fragments of bronze ornaments, including smelted ones (Fig. 6.1-8).

A bronze buckle with a hollow B-shaped frame, a short plate tongue and an iron plate clip should be dated, presumably, to the fifth to the first half of the seventh century (Gavritukhin, Oblomskiy 1996, 30-30f.; Nowakowski 1998, 73). A fragment of an ornamented

cast bronze bracelet with expanded ends resembles Finnish bracelets of Type 'A' according to N. Cleve; they are dated to the seventh or eighth century. Some finds of these bracelets are known from Estonia, and are most likely of Finnish origin (Cleve 1943, 92, Fig. 30; Purhonen 1996, 39ff.). Some items (a fragment of a bracelet with longitudinal grooves, a pin with a massive hemispherical head (Fig. 6.1, 7) may belong to the Roman Iron Age; however, this assumption requires further study.

The burial at Rosson'-11 was found during fieldwork by D.V. Gerasimov (see Appendix; Fig. 1). It is located on the north bank of the Rosson', the river channel connecting the Luga estuary with the lower reaches of the Narva. This is a single burial in accordance with the ritual of cremation outside; it was destroyed during deforestation. The burial was located in the middle of the sandy lowland, directly under the turf. According to I.G. Shirobokov, the remains could belong to a young woman. The AMS-dating of the bones from the Rosson'-11 burial is 422–558 cal AD.

Together with the bones, small fragments of handmade ceramics (the bottom part of a vessel) and melted fragments of bronze ornaments, including ornamented thin plate and a narrow cast bracelet with a longitudinal rib, were found (Fig. 6.10–16). All the pottery fragments are very small and quite inexpressive. We can only assert that it is handmade ceramics, with the addition of gravel, and that the definable fragments belong to the bottom of a vessel, perhaps a funeral urn.

A piece of a bracelet is the most expressive find, and is the more interesting that similar bracelets were found in the cemeteries at Kommunar and Malli. Narrow cast bracelets with a longitudinal rib form a rather compact group of finds in the northwest of Eastern Europe, the most eastern of these bracelets are found by the east shore of Lake Ilmen. These bracelets can be dated to the fifth to the seventh centuries (Mikhaylova, 2016).

They are found in the northwest of Eastern Europe in burials of Pskov Long Barrow culture, at the Kobyl'ia Golova settlement and at several forts (Mikhaylova 2014, 87ff.; Orlov 1968, 165, Fig. 4.4; Sedov 2007, 97, Fig. 75.14; Ereemeev, Dziuba 2010, 113, Fig. 104.8). Plate bracelets with longitudinal ribs at the edges and/or the centre are well represented in the antiquities of the east Baltic. The closest to consider here are bracelets found in stone graves in Estonia (e.g. Tallgren 1925, 7; Moora, 1938, 440ff.; Schmiedehelm 1955, Fig. 20.9, 32.9). Similar bracelets are also known in the antiquities of Finland, where they are common in the years 500–700 (Cleve 1943, 94; Kivikoski 1973, 49). Closed assemblages from East Lithuanian Barrow Culture are very important in determining the dates of

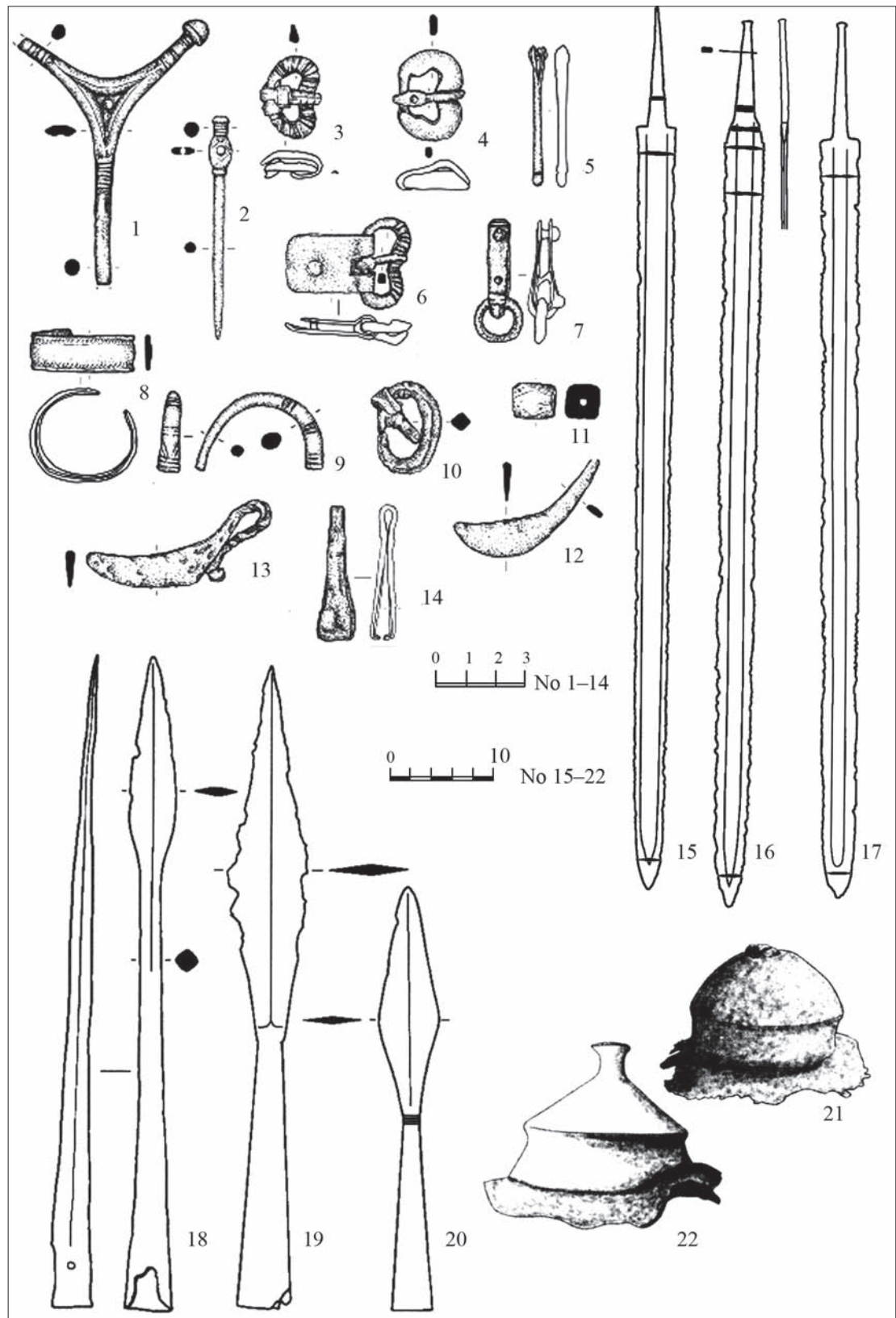


Fig. 5. Objects from the Migration and Merovingian periods. Malli burial site (1-9 bronze; 10, 12-22 iron; 11 blue glass; 1-14 after Yushkova, Stasiuk 2012).

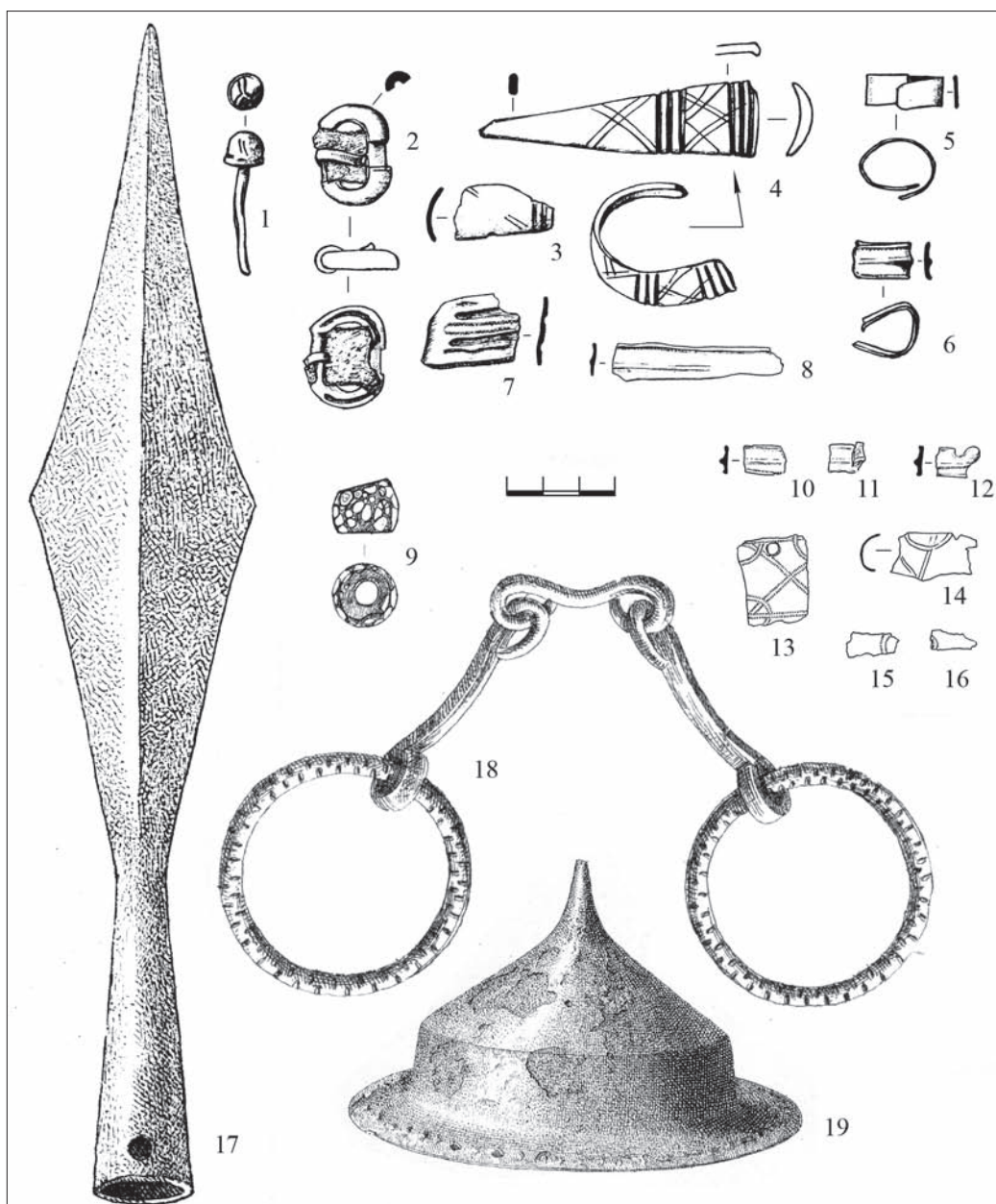


Fig. 6. Objects from the Migration and Merovingian periods. 1–8 Kommunar; 9 Okhta; 10–16 Rosson’ 11; 17–19 Dolozhskoye (1, 3–8, 10–16 bronze; 2 bronze, iron; 9 glass; 17–19 iron; 1–8, 10–16 drawings by the author; 9 after Sorokin et al. 2011; 17–19 after Bekhter 2010).

these bracelets (e.g. Kurila 2011, 164, Fig. 41.5; Steponaitis 2006, 88, Figs. 25–26).

Finds from the third quarter of the first millennium AD are not limited to the Izhora plateau and its surroundings. The barrow cremation with a weapon at Dolozhskoye (Spitsyn 1896, 108ff.) (Fig. 1.17–19) should be mentioned, as separate from the main area of Pskov Long Barrow culture in the Zaozer’ie and Krasnyi Maiak cemeteries, as well as the find of a ‘speckled’ bead on the Okhta promontory in St Petersburg (Sorokin et al. 2011, 380ff.) (Fig. 6.9) (see Appendix; Fig. 1).

The Viking Age

Two coin hoards from the Viking Age are known at the east end of the Gulf of Finland (Markov 1910, 30; Dobrovolskiy et al. 1991, 25ff.). The loss of these treasures is usually associated in Russian historiography only with the functioning of the route ‘from the Varangians to the Greeks’ (Lebedev 2005, 424ff.; Sorokin 1996, 24ff.), but this important route did not pass through deserted lands.

Archaeological sites with material from the Viking Age have been known for some time on the Izhora Heights, but the fieldwork of recent years has added a lot of new information. The results of excavations on

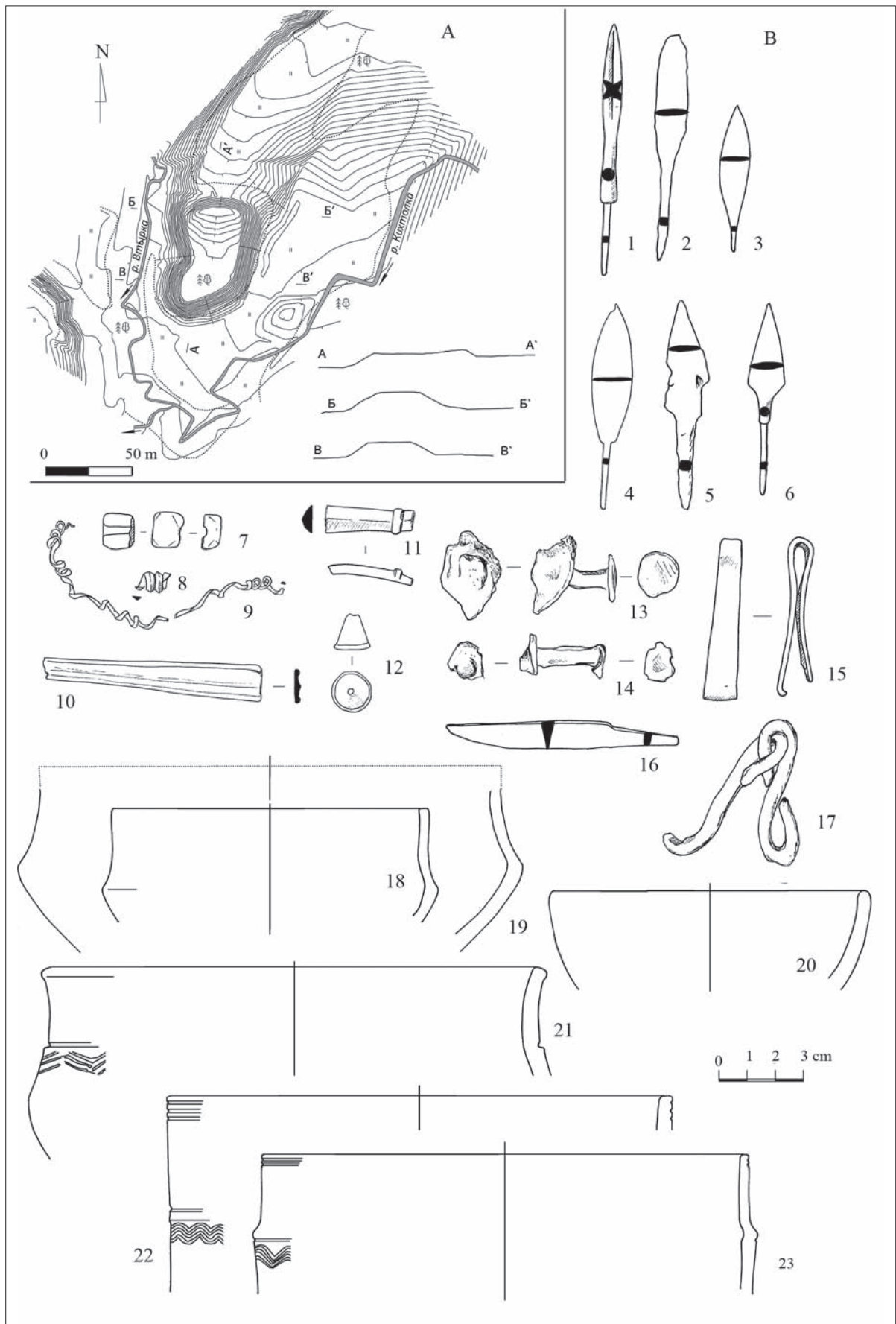


Fig. 7. Vtyrka promontory fort. A plan of the site with contour intervals of 0.5 metres (survey by A.V. Bekhter); B objects from the Viking Age (1-6, 13-17 iron; 7 glass; 8-12 bronze; 18-23 ceramics; drawings by the author).

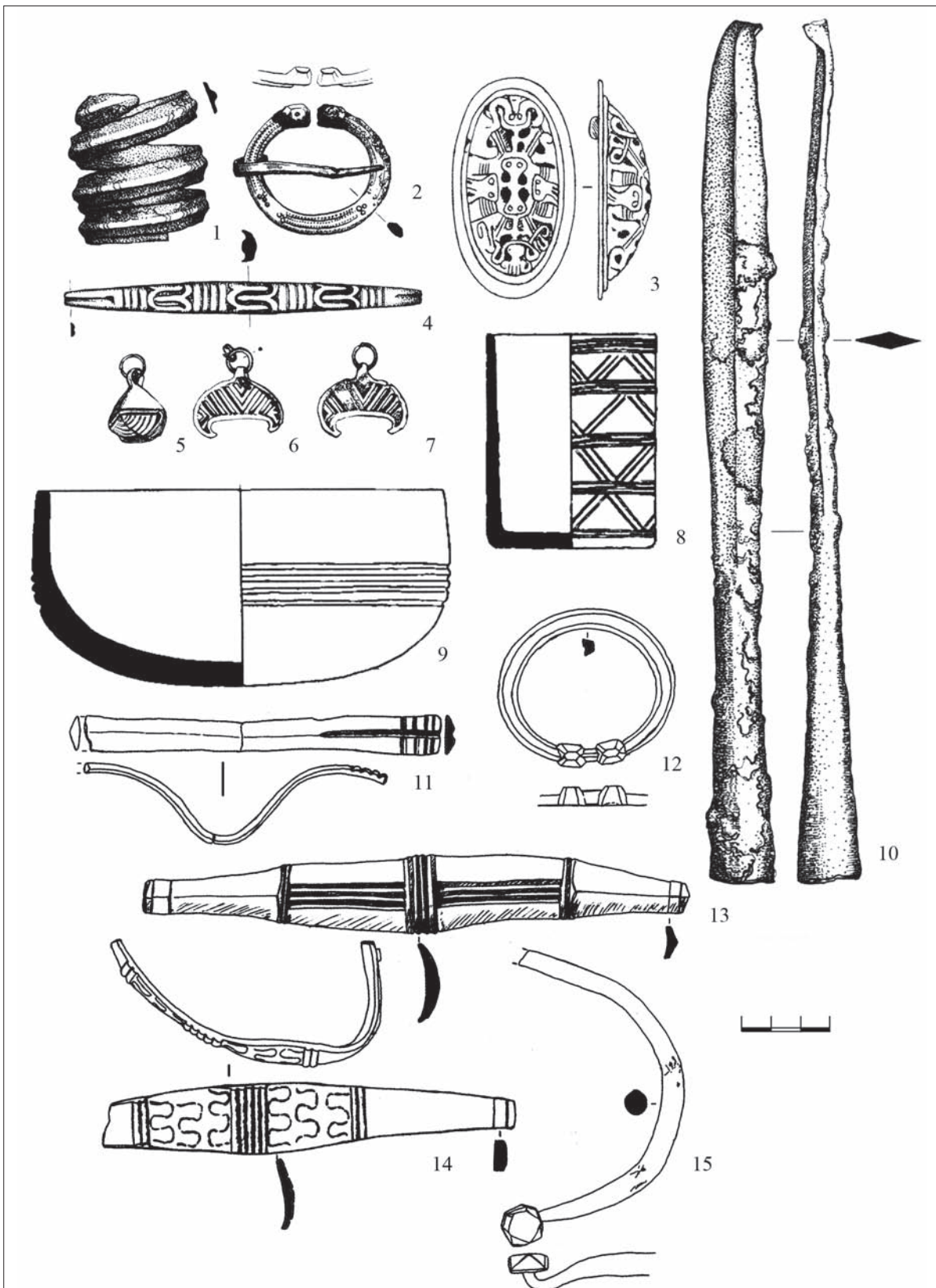


Fig. 8. Objects from Viking Age graves at the Izhora Heights: 1–10 Ratchino; 11–15 Vyritsa (1–7, 11–15 bronze; 8, 9 ceramics; 10 iron; 1–10 after Stasiuk 2012; 11–15 after Lesman 2008).

the Vtyrka (Pillovo-2) promontory fort are most important. The fort is located on a high promontory at the confluence of two small rivers, and protected from the north by a rampart (Fig. 7A) (see Appendix; Fig. 1). An area of 64 square metres was excavated in 2014 in the northern part of the site near the rampart (Mikhaylova 2015, 183ff.).

Two main stages in the history of the settlement have been detected. The first stage is associated with the bottom layer of light grey-yellow sandy soil, contained by textile, scratched and smooth ceramics. Materials of the second stage of life of the settlement (several successive stratigraphic layers, including a few streaks of fire) belong to the Viking Age. Objects from the upper layers of the settlement are mainly represented by types commonly dated to the second half of the first millennium and the beginning of the second millennium AD. Some things (e.g. a fragment of a bracelet with a rib) may be dated to the third quarter of the first millennium AD, but other finds (polychrome and blue, almost cubic beads, rivets, an armour-piercing arrow, a knife, a fragment of a bracelet with zoomorphic end) force us to take the formation of the stratigraphic complex to the last quarter of the first millennium to the beginning of the second millennium AD (Fig. 7.1-17).

The pottery from the upper layers is of special interest: ornamented glazed vessels, similar to pottery from Viking Age settlements in northern Estonia, are well represented here (Lang 1996, Figs. 24-29; Tvauri 2012, 69ff.) (Fig. 7.18-23). Stray finds of these ceramics are known in the northwest of Eastern Europe and in southwest Finland (Goryunova, Plokhov 2014, 136ff.). It is interesting that one of the reconstructed vessels from the Vtyrka settlement has an exact analogy in the materials of a stone burial at Vybuty near Pskov (Taranova 1954, Fig. 8) (Fig. 7.21).

Another important site is the aforementioned burial site at Ratchino, studied by I.V. Stasiuk (2012, 72-82) (see Appendix; Fig. 1). By the beginning of the excavation, the cemetery consisted of six low mounds, and a spoil was located near them. The spoil was generated during earth-moving works in the cemetery, and contained the remains of destroyed burials. Some cremations and inhumations from the Viking Age were discovered during excavations of the burial mounds, but unfortunately they were all destroyed. Objects and ceramics found here have many analogues in the Medieval culture of northwest Russia, as well as in Estonia and Finland (Fig. 8.1-10).

Materials from the fortified settlement at Vtyrka and the burial site at Ratchino show the last stage in the independent development of local antiquities, and the

gradual spread of a common Medieval Russian culture, and probably the emergence of the Russian population.

The end of the Viking Age was marked by important cultural and political changes in the northwest of Eastern Europe. A change in burial rites took place during the 11th century: inhumations replaced cremations (probably as a Christian rite). At the same time, types of jewellery and household items, which will define Medieval Russian culture in a large area of Eastern Europe, were finally produced in the cities of Medieval Russia. The spread of Medieval Russian culture significantly smoothed local cultural characteristics, which were clearly visible in the material from previous periods. It is important to emphasise that cultural changes were not associated with a change in the population; it is rather a question of the distribution of the culture of the established Russian state and the dawn of a new historical era.

These changes were not fast, the process of change in funeral rites was gradual. Not all cremation burials studied at the Izhora plateau date from the tenth or 11th centuries; some of them should be referred to a later time (Ryabinin 2001, 103). Only a few cremation burials (Ozertitsy, Diatlitsy, Vyritsa, see Appendix; Fig. 1) excavated at the Izhora plateau at the beginning of the 20th century and accompanied by expressive grave goods can be attributed with certainty to the Viking Age (Fig. 8.11-15). The group of cemeteries with ground cremations from the tenth to the 11th centuries on the east bank of the Narva belongs to the same time, and according to the rite and grave goods, is close to burial grounds in Estonia (Ligi 1993, 23ff.) (see Appendix; Fig. 1). In the following centuries, all these burial mounds functioned as typical Medieval barrow cemeteries with inhumations.

Most likely, the continuation of burials in the same place for a long time is a serious argument in favour of the opinion of the continued existence of a network of local communities (Fig. 9). It is interesting that the earliest Medieval inhumations were also concentrated in the western part of the Izhora Heights (Lesman 1982, 69).

Conclusions

We have considered the main stages in the development of the culture of the population living on the Izhora plateau and its surrounding lowlands for the first millennium AD. The overview turned out to be quite schematic, since there are still many gaps in our knowledge, but the main stages in the successive development of the local antiquities are already clear.

	since 100 BC	1 AD	100 AD	200 AD	300 AD	400 AD	500 AD	600 AD	700 AD	800 AD	900 AD	1000 AD	1100 AD	1200 AD	1300 AD
Udosolovo	stone graves			flat cremat.											
Valgovitsy	stone graves												barrow inhumations, zhalniks		
Velikino	stone graves													zhalniks	
Ratchino		cremations ?										cremations, barrow inhumations			
Voinsolovo		cremations				crem.					medieval burials				
Georgievskii		chance finds			chance finds								chance finds		
Malli			stone graves			flat cremations					medieval barrows				
Dolozhskoe						barrow cremat.							barrow inhumations, zhalniks		
Diatlitsy											crem.		barrow inhumations		
Ozertitsy											crem.		barrow inhumations		
Vruda											cremations		barrow inhumations		
Kriushi											crem.		barrow inhumations, zhalniks		
Ol'gin Krest											pit cremations		barrow inhumations		
Skaryatina											pit cremations		inhumations		

Fig. 9. A chronological scheme of the excavated burial sites.

One important characteristic of the material culture of the area southeast of the Gulf of Finland throughout its history is stable contacts with neighbouring coastal areas, especially Estonia and Finland. The Gulf of Finland leads them to be considered as a kind of ‘inland sea’ of that cultural world.

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Appendix. List of sites

1. Kriushi (Криуши), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by V.N. Glazov in 1900, N.N. Gurina in 1951. Barrows with inhumations from the 12th to the 13th centuries and *zhalnik* were excavated. In 1858, objects from cremations of the Viking Age, including silver Arab coins from the tenth century, were found there (Ligi 1993, 24, 138).
2. Ol'gin Krest (Ольгин Крест), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by V.N. Glazov in 1900, A. Friedenthal in 1933, O. Saadre in 1937 and 1938, N.N. Gurina in 1951 and 1952, and V.P. Petrenko in 1986. Barrows with inhumations from the 12th to the 14th century and flat cremation graves from the tenth to the 11th century were excavated (Ligi 1993, 11-13, 24, 134–137).
3. Skariatina (Скарятина), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavations by V.N. Glazov in 1900, and A. Friedenthal in 1933. Barrows with inhumations from the 12th century and flat cremation graves from the tenth to the 11th century were excavated (Ligi 1993, 24, 133).
4. Rosson'-11 (Россонь-11), single cremation grave, destroyed. The site was discovered in 2013 by K.V. Shmelev; 400 to 550 years (Mikhaylova 2015, 182).
5. Kuzemkino (Кузёмкино), stray find of a fire-striking stone; first to seventh century (Mikhaylova 2011, 177).
6. Vyb'e (Выбье), stray find of a fire-striking stone; first to seventh century (Mikhaylova 2011, 177).
7. Slobodka-3 (Слободка-3), dwelling site from the 16th or 17th century. The site was discovered in 2009 by I.I. Tarasov. Excavated by K.V. Shmelev in 2009–2011. The cultural layer of the settlement contained the earliest finds: a piece of a fire-striking stone, some fragments of stone axes, handmade glazed pottery (information from K.V. Shmelev).
8. Koskolovo-1 (Косколово-1), dwelling site. The site was discovered in 2014 by K.V. Shmelev. The material includes fragments of handmade ceramics with a

- smooth surface, as well as a quartz scraper (information from K.V. Shmelev).
- 9.** Koskolovo-4 (Косколово-4), dwelling site. The site was discovered in 2014 by S.V. Bel'skii. The material includes fragments of handmade ceramics with a smooth and textile surface (information by S.V. Bel'skii).
- 10.** Valgovitsy (Валговицы), burial site. The site was discovered in 1983 by E.A. Riabinin. Excavated by E.A. Riabinin in 1983 and 1984. A destroyed stone grave-field from the first century BC to the middle of the first century AD, barrows with inhumations from the 12th to the 13th century, and *zhalniks* from the 13th to the 14th century, were discovered (Riabinin 1994, 2001; Kuleshov 2005, 186ff.).
- 11.** Velikino (Великино), burial site. The site was discovered in 1983 by E.A. Ryabinin. Excavated by E.A. Ryabinin in 1986. A destroyed stone grave-field from the end of the first century to the early third century AD, and *zhalniks* from the 13th to the 14th century were discovered (Riabinin 1994, 2001; Kuleshov 2005, 186-188).
- 12.** Riattel' (Ряттель), dwelling site. The site was discovered in 2010 by I.A. Fedorov. The material includes fragments of handmade ceramics with a smooth, textile and scratched surface (Fedorov, Murzenkov 2012, 242ff.).
- 13.** Kotelskii (Котельский), burial site. The site was discovered in 2010 by I.A. Fedorov. A stone grave-field (perhaps, first to third century AD), Medieval barrows (perhaps 12th to 13th century) and *zhalniks* (perhaps 13th to 15th century) were discovered (Fedorov, Murzenkov 2012, 242f.).
- 14.** Voinosolovo (Войносоллово), a site of stray finds from the first to the third century, the end of the fourth to the early fifth century, and the tenth to the 12th century. Three Medieval burial sites and a Medieval settlement are known there (Stasiuk 2012, 84; Sorokin, Iushkova 2014, 315ff.).
- 15.** Vtyrka/Pillovo-2 (Втырка/Пиллово-2), promontory fort. The site was discovered in 2009 by A.V. Smirnov. Excavated by E.R. Mikhaylova in 2014. The first phase (the bottom cultural layer) probably belongs to the first century BC to the first century AD, the second stage (the upper layers) belongs to the Viking Age (Mikhaylova 2015, 183ff.).
- 16.** Georgievskii (Георгиевский), a site of stray finds from the first to the second century, the fourth to the sixth century, and the Middle Ages (Sorokin, Iushkova 2014, 313ff.).
- 17.** Kommunar (Коммунар), burial site. The site was discovered in 2010 by I.A. Fedorov. Prospect hole by E.R. Mikhaylova in 2014. Cremation from the fifth to seventh/eighth century, perhaps with stone structures (Mikhaylova, Fedorov 2011; Mikhaylova 2015, 182).
- 18.** Kerstovo-1/Novoselki (Кёрстово-1/Новосёлки), stone grave-field. The site was discovered in 2008 by M.A. Iushkova. Excavated by M.A. Iushkova in 2008 and 2009. Four stone fences sequentially joined to each other with numerous cremation and inhumation graves, generally dating from the last third of the first to the second century AD, were found (Iushkova 2010; 2015, Iushkova, Kuleshov 2010; Iushkova, Kuleshov 2011).
- 19.** Malli/Kerstovo-2 (Малли/Кёрстово-2), burial site. The site was discovered in 1927 by B.A. Koishevskii and L.S. Generalova. A stone grave-field and Medieval barrows (perhaps from the 11th to the 13th century) were discovered. The stone grave-field was excavated by M.A. Iushkova in 2010–2013. The stone grave-field consisted of two stone fences joined to each other, and an edge-mound with a pavement of granite boulders. The first period of burials is represented by cremations and inhumations (possibly secondary), which date from the last third of the first to the second century AD, the second one is represented by cremations only, and dates from the fifth to the seventh century. A significant series of stray finds (first to second, fifth to seventh, 11th to early 12th centuries) (Iushkova 2010, 2013, 2015; Iushkova, Shirobokov 2014; Stasiuk 2012: 68ff.).
- 20.** Udosolovo (Удосолово), stone grave-field. The cemetery is badly damaged. The site was discovered in 2008 by P.E. Sorokin. Prospecting excavations by E.R. Mikhaylova in 2013. The bottom layer of burials is characterised by inhumations in individual stone cists (first century BC to the first century AD); the top layer of burials represents a layer of burned bones with broken stone (third century AD) (Mikhaylova 2015, 178ff.). Some stray finds (Sorokin, Sharov 2008; Iushkova 2010, 322ff.).
- 21.** Podozvan'e/first hoard from Kopor'e (Подозваньё/1-й Копорский клад), coin hoard found in 2010. The hoard consists of 30 copper Roman coins from the first to the second century (Sharov et al. 2011, 2015).
- 22.** Kopor'e/second hoard from Kopor'e (Копорье/2-й Копорский клад), mixed hoard found in 2010. The hoard consists of 12 copper Roman coins from the first to the second century, and some fragments of bronze ornaments (Sharov et al. 2011, 2015).

- 23.** Kopor'e (Копорье), a silver coin 140–144, accidentally found at the find spot of the second hoard from Koporye (Sharov et al. 2015, 149).
- 24.** Iur'evo (Юрьево), copper coin hoard from the first to the second century, found in 2010 (Khavrin, et al. 2011).
- 25.** Ratchino (Ратчино), burial site. The site was discovered in 2009 by I.V. Stasiuk. The cemetery is badly damaged. Six low mounds and some large spoils of displaced soil with the remains of destroyed burials were discovered. Excavated by I.V. Stasiuk in 2009 and 2010, and 2015. The excavated mounds contained inhumations on the horizon from the 11th to the 12th century, and traces of destroyed cremations from the end of the tenth to the 11th century. Among the finds from the destroyed burials are objects from the first to the third, and the tenth to the 13th century (Stasiuk 2012, 66, 72ff.).
- 26.** Ozertitsy (Озертицы), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by L.K. Ivanovskiy in 1877 and 1881. Barrow No 10, which contained cremations with objects from the ninth to the early 11th century, stood out against the other barrows with inhumations from the 12th to the 13th century (Spitsyn 1896, 5, 74).
- 27.** Vruda (Вруда), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by L.K. Ivanovskiy in 1876. All the excavated barrows contained inhumations from the 12th to the 14th century (Spitsyn 1896, 91). A lance-shaped spearhead from a cremation from the Viking Age was found in the cemetery in 2007 (Stasiuk 2008, 6).
- 28.** Dolozhskoie/Zaguch'e (Доложское/Заручье), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by L.K. Ivanovskiy in 1891 (Spitsyn 1896, 108–109; Bekhter 2010). The cemetery consists of barrows and *zhalniks*, which mostly date from the 12th to the 14th century. A cremation with objects from the fifth century was found under one of the barrows (No 45) during the excavations in 1891. Objects from this grave are similar to antiquities from east Lithuania (Kazanskii 2014). There is no information about the form and internal structure of barrow No 45.
- 29.** Bezhany (Бежаны), stray find of a silver coin of the Roman Emperor Philip the Arab (244–249) (Kropotkin 1961, 45).
- 30.** Krasnyi Maiak (Красный Маяк), burial site of Pskov Long Barrow culture (information from S.L. Kuz'min).
- 31.** Diatlitsy (Дятлицы), burial site. The site was discovered in the 19th century. Excavated by L.K. Ivanovskiy in 1883, N.A. Shtoff in 1900, and S.A. Teploukhov in 1927. The cemetery consisted of barrows with inhumations from the 12th to the 13th century. A cremation burial with weaponry from the tenth to the early 11th centuries was found below barrow No 2 on a stone pavement (Sobolev 2014).
- 32.** Glumitsy (Глумицы), stray find of an axe with a narrow blade and inlaid mark. Some authors date the item to the fourth century (Kargapol'tsev, Shchukin 2002), but others propose a later date (Stasiuk 2012, 67).
- 33.** Vyritsa (Вырица), burial site. Excavated by students of the St Petersburg Archaeological Institute in 1907. There is a series of objects from the second half of the tenth to the early 12th century from cremation burials (Lesman 2008, 33ff.).
- 34.** Zaozer'e (Заозерье), burial site of Pskov Long Barrow culture (Lesman 2008, 67ff.).
- 35.** St Petersburg, Okhta promontory (Санкт-Петербург, Охтенский мыс), dwelling site. A multi-layer settlement (from Neolithic to modern times) is located at the confluence of the Okhta and Neva. Excavated by P.E. Sorokin in 2006–2009. The cultural layer and several fireplaces, which are associated with scratched and smooth ceramic finds, were studied here. A speckled bead from the fourth to the early seventh century was found in a piece of turf displaced during the construction of the fortress in the 17th century (Sorokin et al. 2011).
- 36.** St Petersburg, Galernaia gavan' (Санкт-Петербург, Галерная гавань), coin hoard, found in 1797. The hoard consisted of Kufic silver coins, and it has not been preserved. There is information about only one coin (probably minted in 780, in Abbasiyah) (Markov 1910, 30 [No 171]).
- 37.** Peterhof (Петергоф), coin hoard, found in 1941. The hoard consisted of Sassanid and Kufic silver coins. The youngest coin was minted in 804/805 in Balkh (Dobrovolskii et al. 1991, 25ff.).

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PIETRYTINĖS SUOMIJOS ĮLANKOS PAKRANTĖS GYVENTOJAI IR JŲ RYŠIAI SU BALTIJOS JŪROS REGIONAIS I TŪKSTANTM. PO KR.

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Santrauka

Straipsnyje aptariama pietrytinio Suomijos įlankos regiono gyventojų kultūrinė raida I tūkstantm. po Kr. Ypatingas dėmesys skiriamas pastarųjų metų lauko tyrimų rezultatams (1–9 pav.).

Ikiromėniškasis ir romėniškasis geležies amžius yra atstovaujamas akmenų krovinių kapų, gyvenviečių su brūkšniuotąja / raižyta, tekstiline ir lygiu paviršiumi keramika, taip pat paskirų lobių ir atsitiktinių radinių. Valgovicy ir Udosolovo (apatinis sluoksnius) archeologiniai paminklai yra ankstyviausi ir gali būti datuojami ikiromėniškuoju geležies amžiumi. Daugelis šio laikotarpio laidojimo paminklų yra kapai su akmenų aptvarais (vadinamieji *tarand* tipo kapai) ir priklauso ankstyvajam romėniškajam periodui.

Tautų kraustymosi ir merovingiškasis laikotarpiai yra reprezentuojami keleto degintinių kapų, kuriuose būta nemažai radinių (taip pat ir ginklų).

Vikingų laikotarpiu šiame regione vyko laipsniška Rusios kultūros sklaida, kuri galbūt buvo susijusi su naujų gyventojų įsiliejimu. Ne visada archeologinėje medžiagoje, būdingoje šiam laikotarpiui, įmanoma tiksliai nustatyti tam tikrą kultūrinį identitetą. Yra žinoma įvairių laidojimo vietų su degintiniais ir griautiniais kapais bei vis dar menkai tyrinėtomis gyvenvietėmis, taip pat į rytus nuo Suomijos įlankos yra rasti du monetų lobiai.

Aptariamoji teritorija nuo XI–XII a. buvo prijungta prie Didžiojo Naugardo žemės, tačiau ir tuomet išliko jos kultūrinis ir etnografinis savitumas.