

The INSTITUTE
of HISTORY



of the Academy
of Sciences
of the Estonian SSR



The building of the Institute of History.

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of HISTORY

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TARTU ÜLIKOOLI RAAMATUKOOGU

The following pages will endeavour to tell you something about the work and the achievements of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR

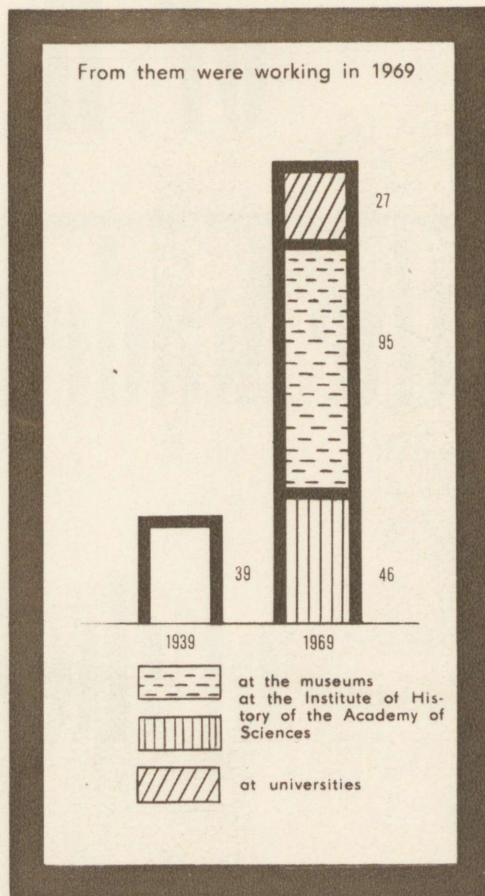
The Institute of History was inaugurated on January 4, 1947. Although the Baltic German scientists had previously studied the history of Estonia for quite a number of centuries, the research work of the Estonian historians began only in the first decades of our century.

After the re-establishment of Soviet power the Humanities got new and larger perspectives for development. For the first time in the history of Estonia was it possible to study social sciences, including historical science, within the framework of a specialized research institute. In bourgeois Estonia, research work was concentrated at the University of Tartu, the Learned Estonian Society, the Estonian National Museum and the State Central Archives.

In the USSR Academies of Sciences were founded and reorganized in the following republics: the Ukraine (1919), the Academy of the USSR (reorganized from Russian Academy 1925), Byelorussia (1926), Georgia and Lithuania (1941), Armenia and Uzbekistan (1943), Azerbaijan (1945), Kazakhstan, Latvia and Estonia (1946).

The Institute of History has focused its chief attention on a profound and complex study of the whole Estonian history, on Marxist-Leninist

The number of professional historians (including archaeologists and ethnographers) in Estonia in 1936 and 1969.



The surveys of
Estonian history published by the
Institute.



lines. In the first place it was urgent to outline the general trends of the Estonian history. Preference was given to the hitherto neglected historiographic problems and to those requiring conceptual re-evaluation, such as: the history of the Estonian working-class and revolutionary movement, Russo-Estonian relations, the beginning and development of capitalism in Estonia, the history of the bourgeois Estonian state.

A new Marxist method of dividing the history of the Estonian SSR into periods, based on the principle of the succession of social and economic formations, was worked out by A. Vassar a. o. in 1947–1952, and is still being used. In 1952, the first impression of 15,000 copies (in a country with a population of a million) of the first Marxist "History of the Estonian SSR" was published.

The three volumes of the fundamental "History of the Estonian SSR" were published in 1955, 1963 and 1970, respectively. They appear also in Russian translations. The authors emphasize: "The aristocratic and bourgeois historians have represented the history of Estonia as a chronicle of the deeds of conquerors and rulers, with the Estonian people in the role of passive sufferers and weak-willed masses. The actual history of Estonia is the history of the Estonian people".

The Institute of History kept up with the times

The main authors of the first Marxist survey of Estonian history. From left to right: V. Maamägi, A. Vassar, J. Saat, H. Moora, O. Saadre, G. Naan.

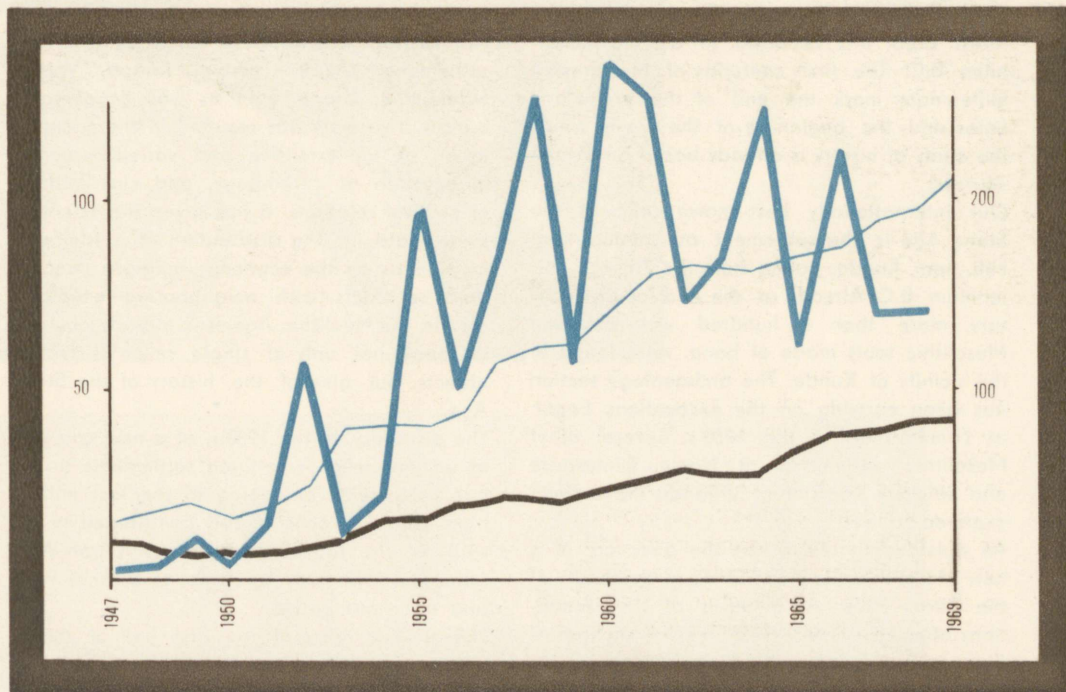
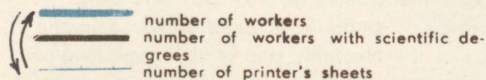


and applied up-to-date rational methods. The punched cards introduced by H. Palli in 1963 were used by 40 per cent of the staff in 1969.

In 1962, the electronic computer was used by J. Kahk in order to analyse the economic situation of the Estonian peasants in the 18th century. The electronic computer has also been used by several investigators for correlation and regression analyses, factor analyses, etc.

The growth of the number of workers and of publications at the Institute of History 1947-1968.

The Institute of History is an extensive and original scientific research institute with a wide range of historical and social problems. In the first place, however, it is the central research institute of the Estonian history in the Estonian SSR, USSR, and the whole world.



THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD AND THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH WORK

The chief task of our archaeologists lies in the study of the oldest – the prehistoric – period in Estonia, which embraces some 9,000 years. It dates back to those times when, after the withdrawal of the ice-sheet and the softening of the climate, the first settlers arrived at the present Estonian territory. According to the latest data, this occurred in the 8th millennium B.C. The first centuries of the present millennium mark the end of the prehistoric times and the beginning of the era in which the study of history is already based on written sources.

Our internationally best-known relic of the Stone Age is the settlement at Lammasmägi Hill, near Kunda, dating from the 7th–6th millennium B.C. Already at the end of last century, more than a hundred well-preserved Mesolithic tools made of bone, were found in the vicinity of Kunda. The archaeology section has been carrying on the excavations begun at Lammasmägi in the 1930's. Several other Mesolithic settlements at Narva, Siimusaare and Jälevere (district of Viljandi) have been explored as well.

An outstanding event was the discovery of a new Mesolithic site near Sindi, in the basin of the Pärnu River. As a result of the excavations effected there in 1968, a small number of flint, bone, and antler objects belonging to the 8th millennium B.C. and preceding the

finds at Kunda by a thousand years, were unearthed in an ancient cultural layer under an about 2-metre-thick layer of clay and sand.

Noteworthy results have been achieved in the study of the Neolithic and of the beginning of the succeeding Bronze Age (3rd–2nd millennium). Under the direction of L. Jaanits, excavations have been carried out at some fifteen settlements (Akali, Tamula, Kääpa, Valma, Naakamäe, Loona, etc.) as well as at some burials. This work has resulted in the accumulation of an extensive and varied material, elaboration of chronology, and classification of cultural relations. It has given the scientists some data on the distribution of settlements as well as on the economy, religious conceptions, contacts with neighbouring countries, etc., in the Neolithic Age. It is already possible to speak not only of single relics or typical objects, but also of the history of the Stone Age.

The discovery, in the 1930's, of a new category of ancient relics – fortified settlements or hill fort settlements belonging to the last millennium B.C., has considerably contributed to the study of the late Bronze and early Iron Age, hitherto known only by some occasional finds and stone cist graves.

The ancient relics of the first half of the 1st millennium A.D., above all the stone burial mounds, have been attracting the attention of



Hill fort settlement
of Asva.

The oldest discovered
settlement of
mankind in Estonia
at Sindi from the 8th
millennium B C

The Lammasmägi
near Kunda





The stone cist graves of Kahala

... and at Hundi-
kangru.

the archaeologists for a long time already. In recent years, the primary issue is no longer the general character and dating of those relics, but problems of wider historic importance, such as the history of the earliest communities, the clarification of cultural and ethnical differences in various regions of the Estonian territory, and a number of other social and economic problems.

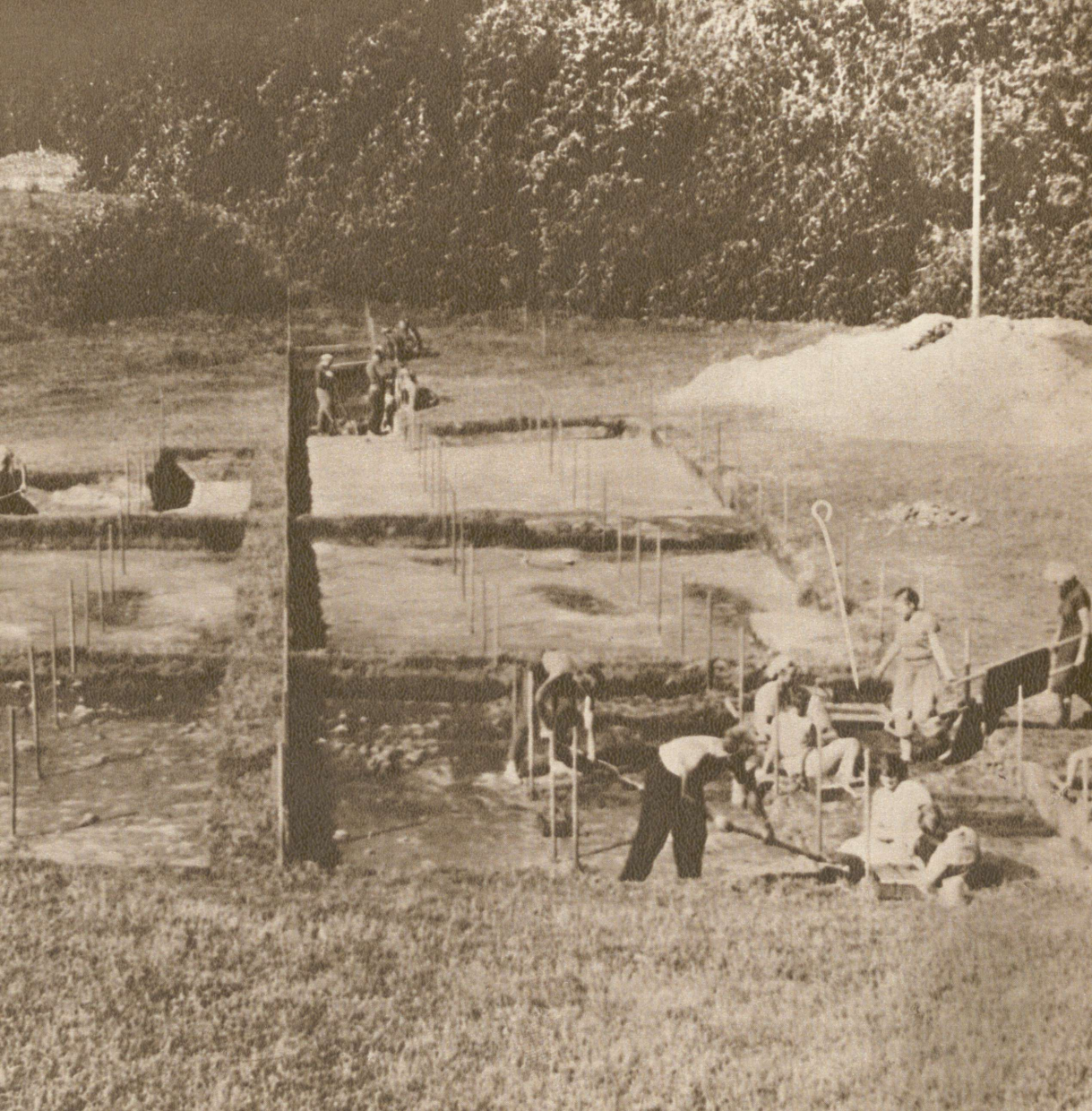
In addition to burials, excavations have also been carried out at some earthworks belonging to that period. A comprehensive monograph dealing with the relics of the first half of the 1st millennium of our era and the second half of the preceding millennium, found in Virumaa, north-eastern Estonia, was published by M. Schmiedehelm in 1955. Stone burial mounds have also been explored by A. Vassar and S. Laul.

In connection with the relics of the second half of the 1st millennium, one ought to mention the extensive excavations carried out at Rõuge under the guidance of Academician H. Moora (1900–1968) and M. Schmiedehelm. The plateau of the courtyard of this ancient earthwork was thoroughly explored first of all. A contemporary settlement in the immediate vicinity of the earthworks was also excavated. On a smaller scale, excavations were carried out at a number of other earthworks of the Middle Iron Age. The remains of a log build-

ing discovered at Valgjärve belong to the same period. Their exploration, in 1958, headed by J. Selirand, may be regarded as the beginning of the "subaqueous" archaeology in Estonia.

The last period of the prehistoric era – (the so-called Late Iron Age) – the threshold of the present millennium and its first centuries – is represented by numerous relics. The possibility of using some written sources and comparing them with archaeological data opens up wide prospects in the study of that era, at the same time contributing to a better understanding of the remoter periods of the prehistoric times. Cemeteries as well as numerous treasure finds have been explored, but the bulk of the studies has been focused on the earthworks.

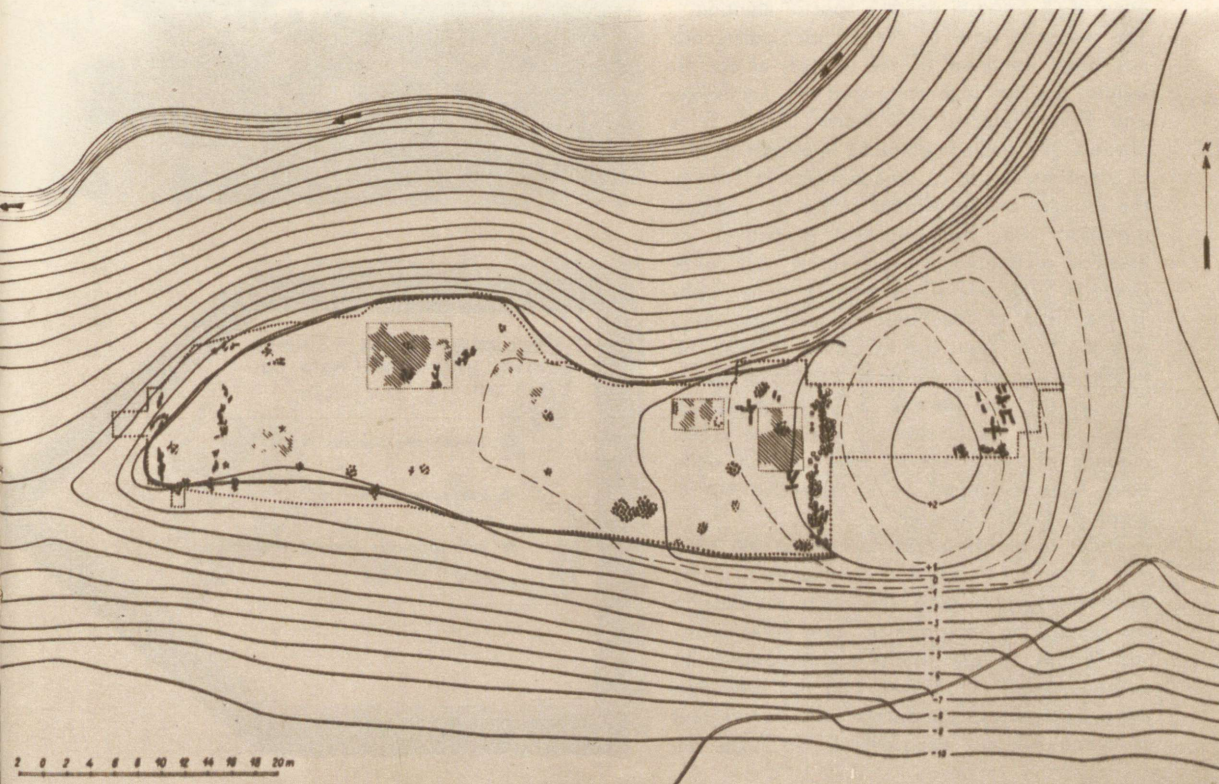
The most remarkable undertakings of our archaeologists, both as to their volume and outcome, are the excavations carried out, over a number of years, under the guidance of H. Moora, at Lõhaverre, the earthwork of Lembitu, mentioned in the chronicle of Priest Henrik at the beginning of the 13th century, the time of the Estonian people's heroic struggle against the German invaders. This work has resulted not only in the discovery of some ruins of ancient buildings and numerous other finds, but also in the acquisition of new experience and in the elaboration of excavation methods. The excavations at Lõhaverre have been a veri-



The excavations of the ancient earthwork at Rôuge.

The plan of the Rôuge earthwork.

table school for our archaeologists, the gist of which could be expressed by the following maxims: each relic demands an individual approach, an archaeological excavation is a creative process requiring a deep understanding of the spirit of the past; an archaeologist ought to perceive not only the ruins unearthed from under the turf, but the whole inheritance of the past connected with them. Besides Lôha-



The ruins of ancient buildings at Lõhavere.

The well at Lõhavere.

vere, a number of other earthworks belonging to the Late Iron Age have been excavated. Among these, the excavations effected at Otepää over a number of years, under the guidance of O. Saadre, deserve special mention.

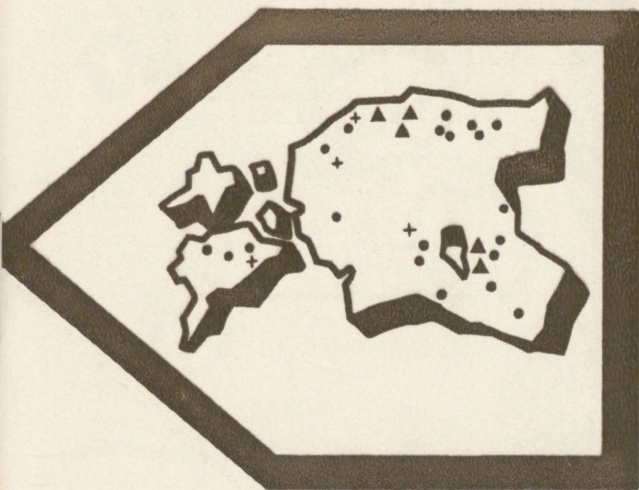
The research work of the archaeologists has not been confined to the territory of our republic, but has also embraced the Leningrad and Pskov regions and North Latvia. It is obvious that ancient ethnical relationships are of great interest to us. Academician H. Moora, the founder of the Marxist school in Estonian prehistory, was as competent in Latvian as Estonian archaeology. His greatest work, published in 1938, one of the leading monographs in the field of the Baltic archaeology, deals with the Early Iron Age in Latvia. In 1952, he published a concise survey of Latvian archaeology. In the last decade, S. Laul has participated in the exploration of the stone burial mounds of North Latvia. The Livonian relics have been examined in an extensive monograph by Evald Tõnisson.

In order to clarify issues concerning the area and economy of ancient communities, it has been necessary to take recourse to the data of the geological, geographical, and other sciences. Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with palaeozoologist K. Paaver, who has identified the greater part of the animal bones unearthed at archaeological excavations, we have al-



Fortified earthworks in Estonia,
where excavations were carried out

- ▲ before the Second World War
- + before and after it
- only after the Second World War



ready got a relatively clear picture of the wild and domestic animals of the ancient times. At the Geobiochemical Laboratory of the Institute of Zoology and Botany of the Academy of Sciences, the radioactive carbon method has been applied by A. Liiva and others for determining the precise date of many ancient relics.

One of the most difficult, but also most interesting problems of our prehistoric times, is that of ethnogeny.

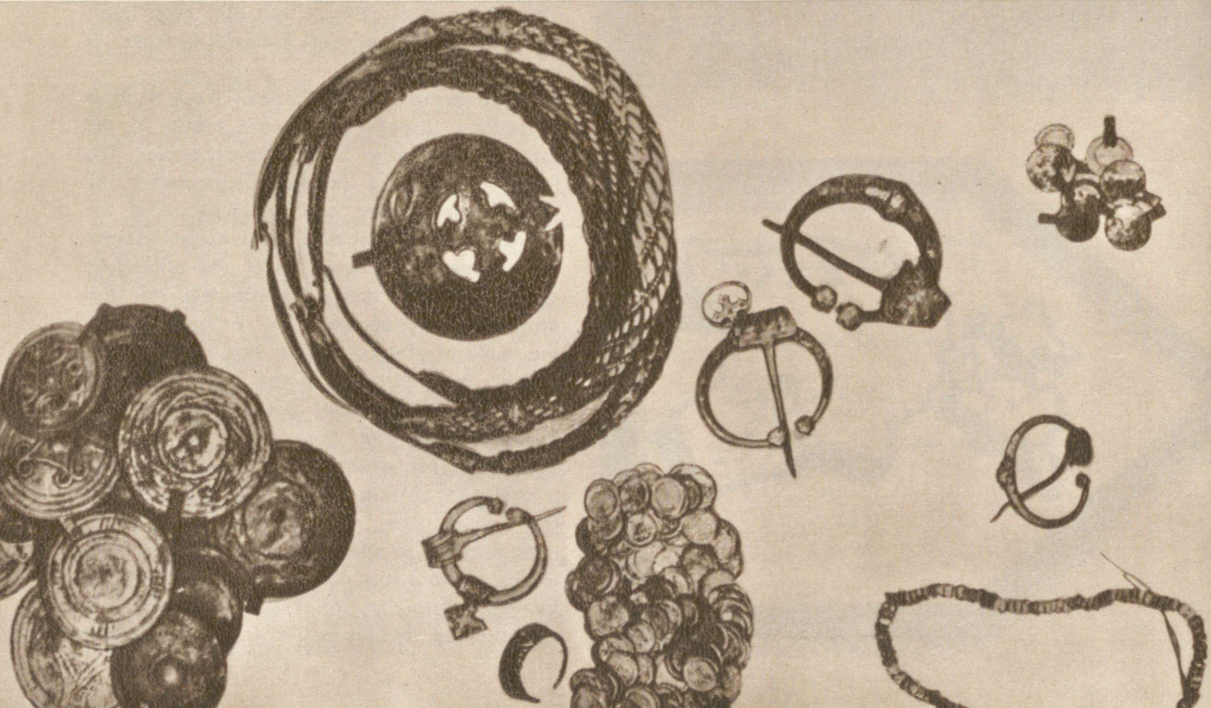
Some time ago, linguistic data were decisive in settling disputes as to the origin of the Estonian and other Fenno-Ugric peoples. The facts revealed by linguists, concerning the mutual relationships and ramifications of the Fenno-Ugric peoples and tribes, are still essential whenever the question of the ethnogeny of those peoples arises. Nevertheless, the part played by archaeology and anthropology in the study of ethnical history has grown considerably in importance in the last decades. It is one of the principal achievements of our archaeologists that the results of practical archaeological research work have found application for solving problems of ethnogeny. At the same time, the archaeologists have endeavoured to strengthen the ties with linguistics, folklore and other allied sciences. "The Ethnical History of the Estonian People" – a collection of articles published in 1956 under

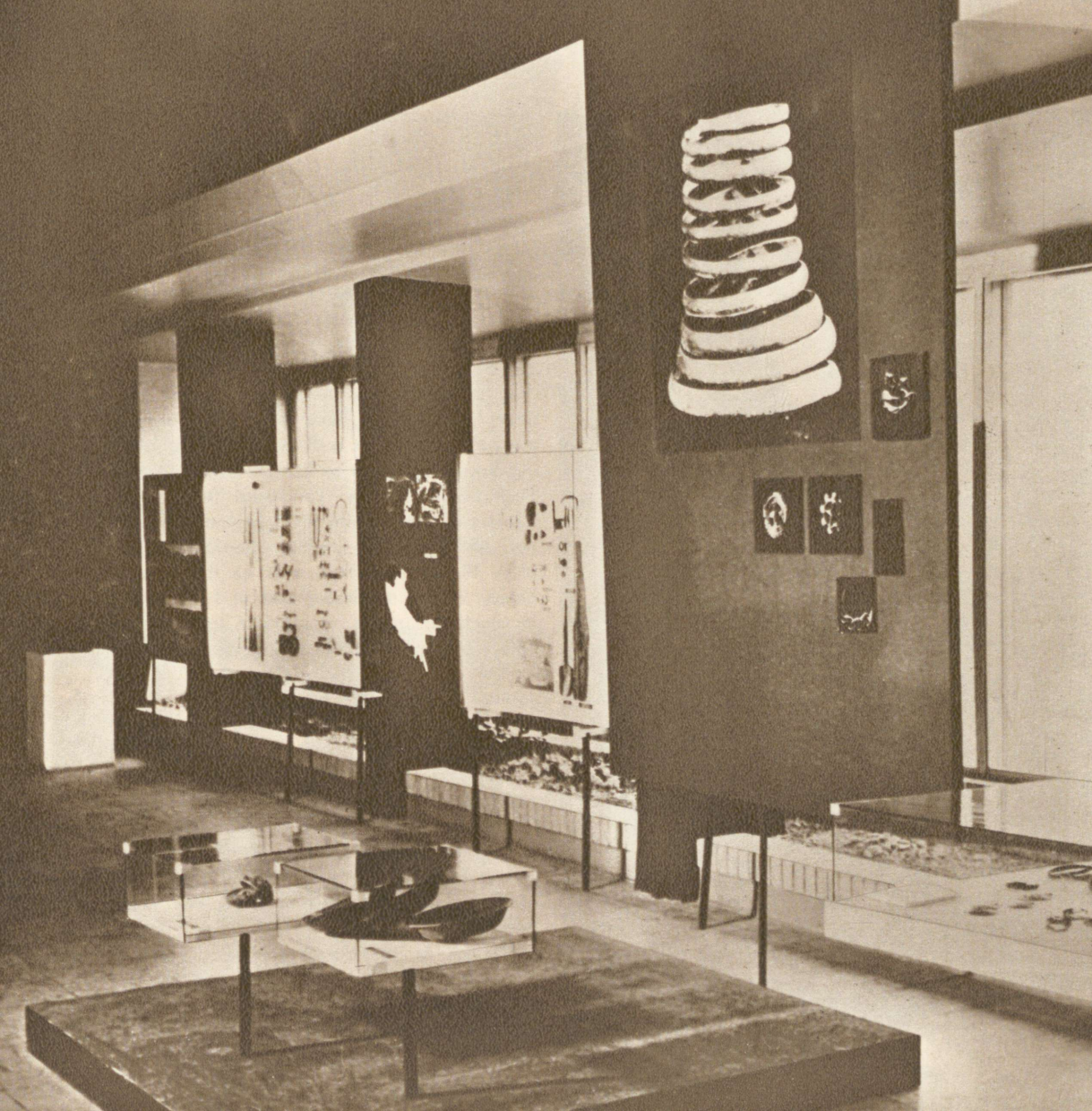
The archeological exhibition of 1965.

A treasure find discovered in Kostivere.

direction of Academician H. Moora is one of the first fruitful results of the above-mentioned collaboration. A long article by H. Moora is the most outstanding contribution in this collection. Of course, it does not present a final solution of the problems of ethnogeny, but it is above all valuable for introducing new methodological starting-points and opening up prospects for future research work.

The anthropologist K. Mark has long since extended her sphere of activities beyond the boundaries of our republic, across the forest belt of the European part of the USSR to West-Siberia. In the last few years, she has also taken part in expeditions in Finland. As an anthropologist, K. Mark is at present one of the most outstanding specialists in the ethnogeny of the Fenno-Ugric peoples.







Academician H. Moora.

Ethical problems also occupy an important place in the programme of the ethnographers who are working in collaboration with the archaeologists. In order to elucidate the relations of the Estonian people with their neighbours, explorations have been undertaken in the Estonian SSR as well as in the neighbouring Soviet republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Byelorussia, in the Leningrad and Pskov regions of the Russian SFSR and in the Karelian ASSR. Special mention should be made of A. Moora's excellent work on the ethnical history of the neighbourhood of Lake Peipsi, in which the author, in addition to ethnographic material, makes abundant use of archaeological and linguistic data as well as of various written historical records.

One ought also to mention the study of the history of Estonian woodwork by A. Viires. At present, the ethnographic group headed by A. Viires is participating in the labour-consuming task of compiling an ethnographic atlas of the Baltic area. A. Viires is also engaged in a comprehensive research into the history of the traffic and transports of the Baltic peoples.

The most remarkable achievements in the work of the ethnographers are a compendium (in German) of the Estonian ethnography "Abriß der estnischen Volkskunde", edited by H. Moora and A. Viires, and a comprehensive



The Swedish students from the seminar of prof. Stenberg at the Institute in 1961.



Dating of ancient relics with the radio-active carbon method.

TARTU ÜLIKOOLI
RAAMATUKOGU



The main directions of the distribution of the anthropological types.

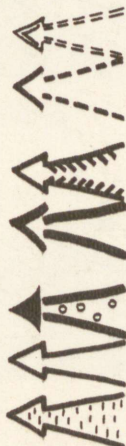


PERMI-KOMID

VII-III m. B. C.
proto-European
proto-Lapponoid

II-I m. B. C.
proto-European
south-European

I m. and the
beginning
of the II m.
central-European
north-European
south-European
(with Mongoloid
elements)



Our archaeologists have established close links with the specialists of natural sciences (geologists and geographers). As a result of that collaboration new methods are practised now in study of ancient settlement of Northern Estonia. As a most outstanding achievement of collaboration of archaeologists and biologists must be mentioned the monograph of K. Paaver about the development of mammals in Eastern Baltic. Noteworthy is also the collaboration of archaeologists with the Geobiochemical Laboratory of the Institute of Zoology and Botany.

Archaeology has maintained its central position in the study of prehistoric period. All stages have been studied and as a result of that research we have got a more precise chronological scheme of that period and a more complete and scientifically well-founded picture about the origin of Estonian people.

From 1952 on our archaeologists have effectively collaborated with the ethnographers from the Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Under the guidance of that Institute the so-called Baltic Complex Expedition was organized to plan and coordinate the research work of ethnographers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



K. Mark at work.



The inhabitants of Estonia approximately 2000 years B. C. (reconstructions by M. Gerassimov)

The excavations at Otepää.





PEIPSIMAA
ETNILISEST
AJALOOST

ANALOGIA NAVA REKONNOLU LIIK
MUSEUMI KIRJASTO
1938

MUISTSED
M KALMED
JA AARDED

A carpenter from Avi-
nurme.

Ethnographers inter-
viewing old peasants in
the Peipsi area.

The publications of the
Institute in the field of
archaeology and ethno-
graphy.



SLAVI-
LÄÄNEMERE-
SOOME
suhtete
AJALOOST

И РАННЕГО
МЕТАЛЛА
В ПРИУСТЬЕ
ЭМАЙЫГИ
(ВСТОНОКЪЯ ССР)

VOПРОСЫ
ЭТНИЧЕСКОЙ
ИСТОРИИ
НАРОДОВ
ПРИБАЛТИКИ

MUISTSED
MASULAD
JA LINNUSED

М. Х. ШИМАДЕЛАМ
АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ
ПАМЯТНИКИ
ПЕРИОДА РАЗЛОЖЕНИЯ
РОДОВОГО СТРОЯ
НА СЕВЕРО-ВОСТОКЕ
ЭСТОНИИ

A VIIRES
EESTI
INVARÄRANE
MÜTTOONDUS



PRONKSI
AJAST

VARASE
FEODALISMINI

An outstanding work on the theory and methodology of ethnography was published, a collective study of H. and A. Moora about the origin and development of historical-cultural regions in Baltic, a book in which were studied all the significant factors (including the geographical milieu) that influenced the cultural and socio-economic development of these regions.

One of the most remarkable initiations in the field of ethnographical research (and a good example of the collaboration of the ethnographers of all the three Baltic republics as well) is the "Historical-ethnographical Atlas of the Baltic", work on what has only begun.

On the initiative of Academician H. Moora an open-air ethnographic museum was founded

near Tallinn in 1957. A great number of typical old-time farmhouses and annexes from all districts of the republic were concentrated here and the complex as a whole produces now an effective impression as an image of hard conditions of life of the working people in the past as well as of their fondness of beauty.

Numismatics, too, has contributed to the study of the history of the prehistoric era and the Middle Ages in Estonia. The territory of the Estonian SSR is one of the richest in the Soviet Union as regards coin finds. The major part of these treasures is preserved in the coin collection of the Institute of History, which, containing some 100,000 coins, is one of the largest in the Soviet Union. The most valuable

samples in this collection are coins minted in Oriental and European countries in the 9th–13 centuries.

Coin finds are important historical sources. A coin treasure can be compared to a snapshot of a certain period. They reflect the material and social differences, inland and foreign trade, political relations, etc. of those times.

A. Molvygin, who explored the coin collection of the Institute, completed his study on the currency and coinage of the Estonian area from the 13th to the first half of the 16th century. At present, he is concentrating his attention upon the coin finds of the 11th–12th centuries in order to elucidate the degree of the economic development and the character of foreign relations of the above-mentioned period.

THE PERIOD BEFORE THE SOCIALIST OCTOBER REVOLUTION

One of the most intensely studied items of this period is the history of agriculture and of the peasantry, which at that time, constituted the main body of Estonian people. The peasant movement – the principal revolutionary driving force in the society of the feudal period – is closely linked up with the history of the working-class and revolutionary movement, the

other chief trend of the researches into the relevant period.

A. Vassar, the head of the respective department, has great merits in publishing of Marxist surveys of the period and education of the younger generations of scientists.

The peasant movement was given but slight attention in the Estonian historiography of the pre-Soviet period, with the exception of a fundamental research by Professor H. Kruus into the uprisings in South Estonia in 1840–1848.

In his work "The 1858 Peasant Movement in Estonia. The War at Mahtra", the author, J. Kahk, has the first time given a complete historical picture of the above-mentioned uprisings and of their most vivid episode – the so-called "War at Mahtra" – an extremely popular event described at length in the novel of the same name by our literary classic E. Vilde. Dr. J. Kahk has also written several works dealing with the peasant movement and agrarian reforms at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century.

E. Õpik has drawn a varied, novel and vivid picture of the intensive peasant movement during the Great Northern War (1700–1710), pointing out, alongside of the struggle against the landlords, the intensity of the struggle against the Swedish military and colonial oppression. H. Ligi has studied the class struggle of the peasantry at the beginning of

A. Vassar,
Corresponding member
of the Academy of
Sciences of the ESSR.

the Livonian War (1558–1561). A. Vassar, the author of several important chapters of the feudal period in the afore-mentioned "History of the Estonian SSR", has chosen the peasant movement in the years 1860–1880 for the special subject of his researches.

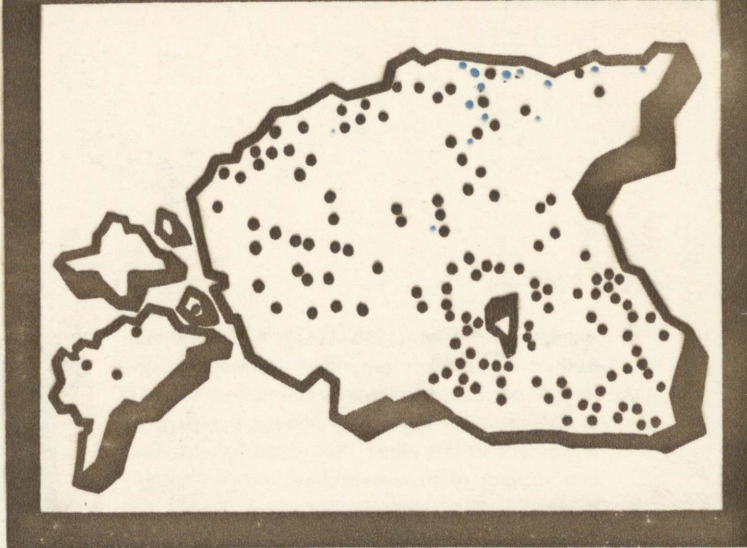
In the 1960's, increasingly more stress has been laid on the study of the general agrarian development and on the history of agriculture. The first publications of H. Ligi dealt with the economic and legal position of the Estonian peasants in the 15th–16th centuries. H. Ligi has applied an original method for studying the structure and dynamics of the taxation of the Estonian peasant over six centuries (the 13th – the beginning of the 19th century), comparing them with the changes in the economic state of the farms. His interpretation has helped to refute the erroneous conception of a steady increase of taxes throughout the feudal period, independent of changes in the economic state of the farms. E. Tarvel has examined the agrarian development of South Estonia during the Polish rule in the 16th – 17th centuries.

Using the maps of the manors from the end of the 17th century and data supplied by history, agronomy and soil science in particular, H. Ligi has elaborated an important theory as to the effect of soil on the differences in the agrotechnical and tillage methods of the



Peasant uprisings in
18th century.

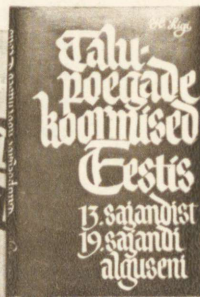
The publications of
the Institute in the
field of the history
of peasantry and
agriculture.



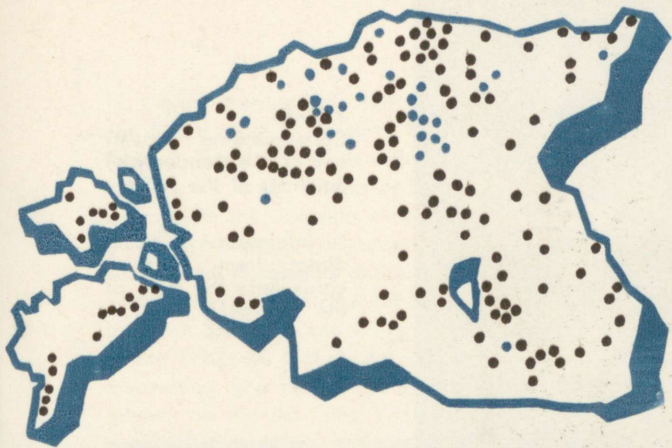
past, thus considerably contributing to a better understanding of the development of the systems of land cultivation.

The problems of the economic development in Estonia in the 19th century occupy a prominent position in the works of J. Kahk. In his studies he has attempted to apply methods of mathematical statistics, sometimes illustrating the main trends of the economic development by mathematical formulas.

In the middle of the 1960's, the Institute of History focused its attention on historical demography, both as an independent research subject and as a component part of the history of the Estonian peasantry. In those studies historical demography has been applied by J. Kahk in particular. He has used demographic indicators (natural increase coefficient, average life-span, etc.) for characterizing the conditions of the peasants and the processes of the basic socio-economic development.



Majhtra sõda



Peasant uprisings in the first half and in the middle of the 19th century.

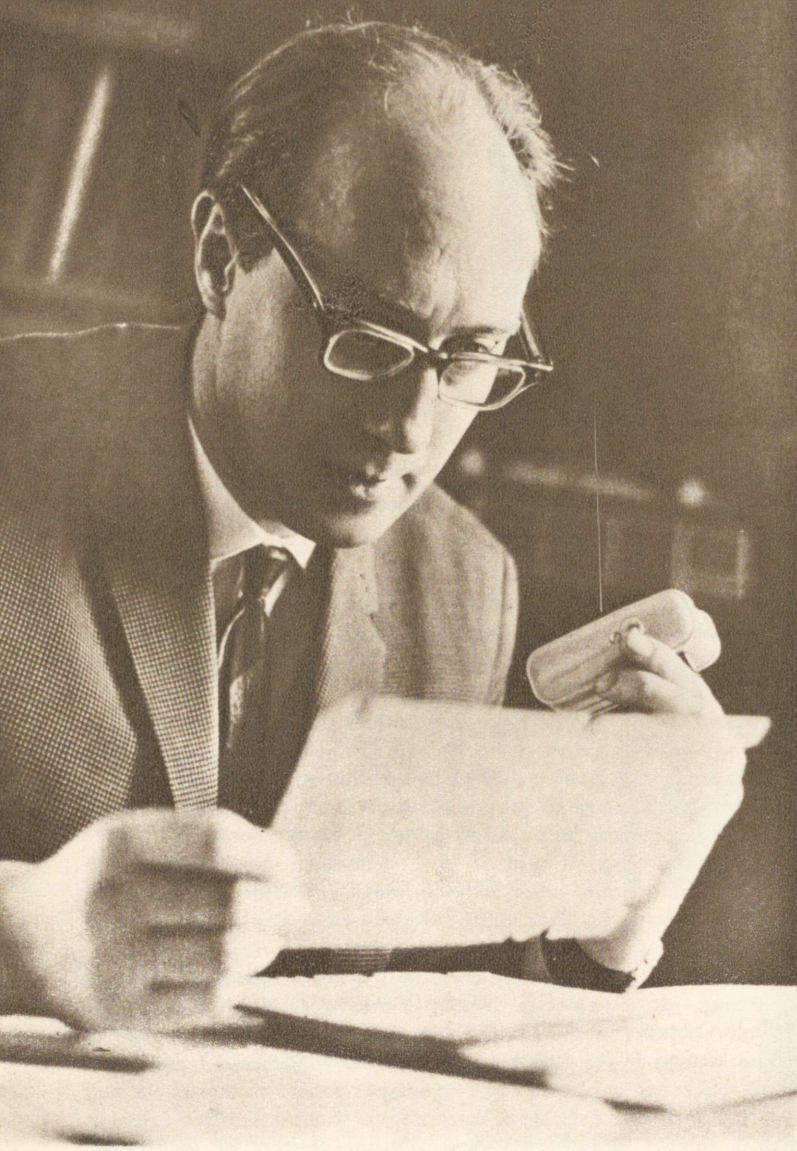
- known to historians already before 1940
- discovered by Soviet historians



In studying the population of Estonia in the 13th–18th centuries, particularly the peasantry, H. Palli has applied the method of family-reconstruction used by Louis Henry. R. Pullat's studies of the same character chiefly concern the Estonian urban population in the 19th–20th centuries.

The most prominent and effective forum for furthering contacts with agrarian historians in other scientific centres of the Soviet Union have been the all-Union symposium dedicated to the problems of the East-European agrarian history. The idea originated at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the ESSR, in 1958. The first session was held in Tallinn to commemorate the centenary of the peasant uprising of 1858. So far, all sessions have been held in different towns, where the members of the Institute of History of the Soviet Estonian Academy of Sciences, headed by J. Kahk and H. Ligi, have delivered some 26 reports.

Another leading research topic has been the history of the industrial, labour and revolutionary movements, a neglected section in pre-Soviet historiography. The history of Estonian industry in the pre-October period, from the foundation of the manufacture industry in the 17th century until 1917 – has been investigated by O. Karma. G. Lukin has published some significant papers on the labour and trade union movements, and E. Laul on the history of the press of the Estonian working-class, a subject closely connected with the history of the labour movement.



J. Kakk,
Corresponding member
of the Academy of
Sciences of the ESSR.

... information is going
direct from punched
cards onto the tape of
the recorder...

The scheme of the na-
ture of the soils of
arable land in Estonia
worked out by
dr. H. Ligi.

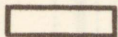
H. Kruus, member of the Academy of Sciences of the ESSR and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, has been working on the problems of the Russo-Livonian War. E. Tarvel has dealt with the political relations between Poland and Livonia in the 16th century. H. Palli's studies of the Great Northern War lie on the border of military and economic history. On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the union of Estonia with Russia, the Institute published, in collaboration with the State Central Archives of History of the ESSR, a selection of documents and a collection of short publications. For this purpose, extensive research work was carried out in the archives of the USSR, the collected material forming the basis for E. Õpik's and H. Palli's researches into the problems of the Northern War.

In the 1920's-30's, H. Kruus initiated the scientific research into the era of the Estonian national awakening (the mid-19th century) and in 1949 he published one of the first treatments of the subject on Marxist lines. E. Jansen has followed the tradition established by H. Kruus in her detailed study of the national movement of the 1860's-1880's. Her attention has been focused on Carl Robert Jakobson, a man "who will have permanent place of honour in Estonian history as a great, courageous and capable fighter for the liberation of his people, on its road to progress and enlightenment" (H. Kruus). C. R. Jakobson's anti feudal newspaper "Sakala" (1878-1882), issued in 6,000 copies and passed from hand to hand, was read by tens of thousands of Estonians.

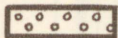
E. Laul's study of the history of the public schools from the end of the 19th century until the October Revolution, should be of help for elucidating the problems of the cultural development of that period.



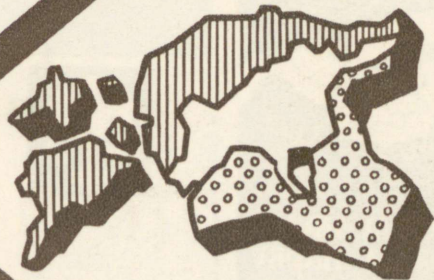
humous and sod-carbonate soils

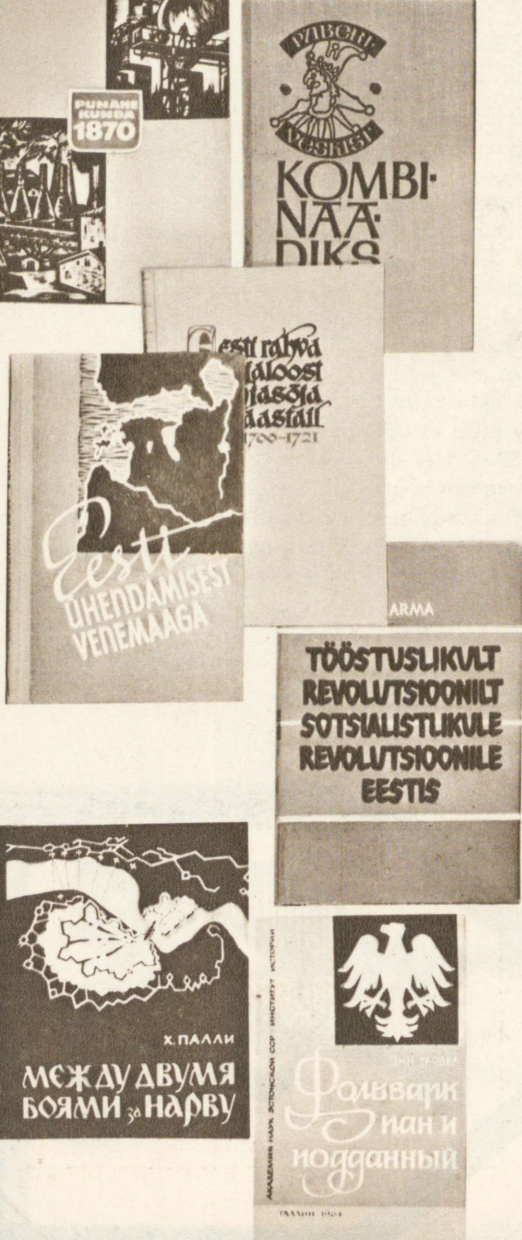


drenched and podzol sod-carbonate soils






sod-podzol soils

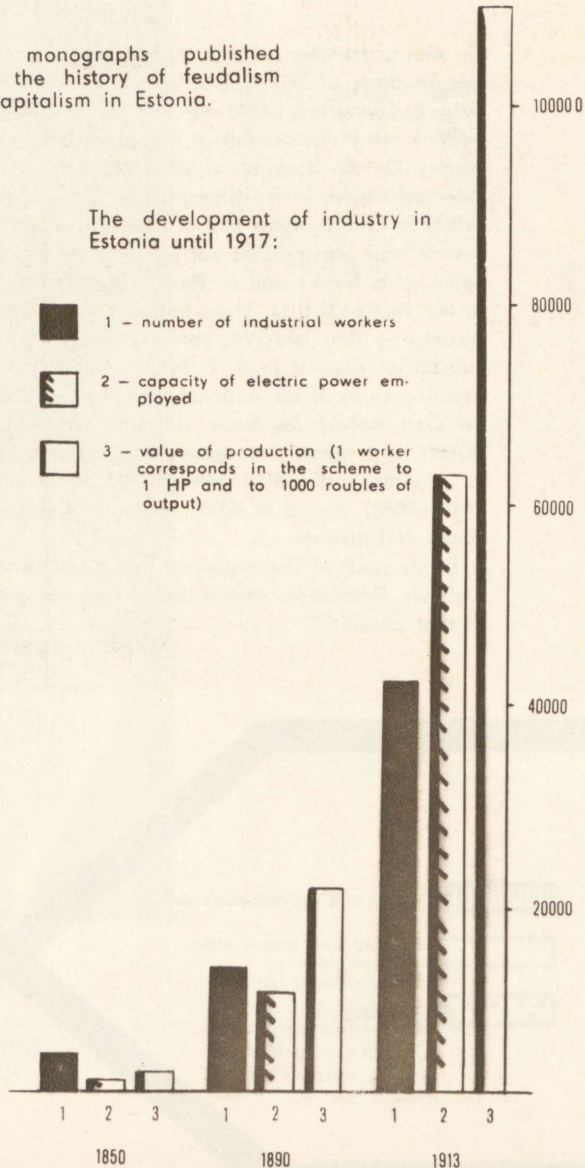




Some monographs published about the history of feudalism and capitalism in Estonia.

The development of industry in Estonia until 1917:

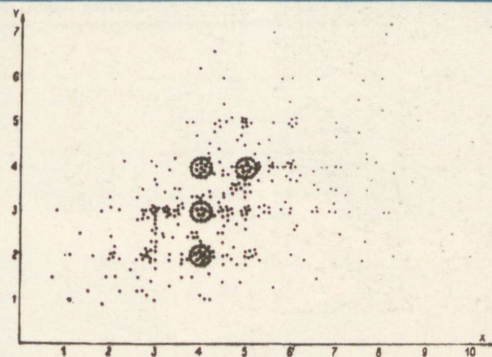
-  1 - number of industrial workers
-  2 - capacity of electric power employed
-  3 - value of production (1 worker corresponds in the scheme to 1 HP and to 1000 roubles of output)





Studying mediaeval maps of arable land of the peasant holdings. (E. Tarvel).

Distribution of data about the yields of rye in South-Estonia in the 1840-ies in the fields of landlords (axis x) and peasants (axis y).





The sessions of the Symposium on the Agrarian History of Eastern Europe were held:

- 1958 in Tallinn
- 1959 in Moscow
- 1960 in Kiev
- 1961 in Riga
- 1962 in Minsk
- 1963 in Vilnius
- 1964 in Kishinev
- 1965 in Moscow
- 1966 in Tallinn
- 1968 in Leningrad
- 1969 in Odessa

On the first session in Tallinn in 1958 17 scientific reports were made, on the ninth session their number increased to 86. The reports of all sessions are published in special year-books

Dr. E. Iansen





The class-room of a village-school in Penin-gi at the end of the 19th century.

THE PERIOD FROM THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION TO OUR DAYS

The history of the ESSR from the Great October Socialist Revolution in 1917 to the present day, though a brief period of time, has been full of decisive events. A special sector for studying this period was founded in 1955 on the initiative of the Director of the Institute, Victor Maamägi, the present scientific Secretary General of the Academy of Sciences of the ESSR. He has done remarkable work on the exploration of the Soviet period.

In collaboration with the archives and with the Institute of History of the Estonian Communist Party a collection of documents and materials: "The Great October Socialist Revolution in Estonia" was published in 1957. Ten years later, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution, a fundamental collective monograph was published in collaboration with Latvian and Lithuanian historians, entitled "The Struggle for Soviet Power in the Baltic Area". The problems of the pre-conditions and of the making of the October Revolution as well as of the consolidation of Soviet power have been treated by J. Saat, M. Petrov, O. Karma, and others. These investigations have refuted the assertion of bourgeois historiographers who stated that the October Revolution in Estonia was a Russian phenomenon, effected by war-weary Russian soldiers and a handful of Estonian Bolsheviks

The section has successfully investigated the Civil War period, the home and foreign policy of the bourgeois republic, the economic life, the labour and revolutionary movement, the heroic periods of the 1940 socialist revolution and the Great Patriotic War (H. Arumäe, Ö. Elango, O. Karma, H. Saarniit, Ü. Taigro and others).

H. Arumäe's study "Behind the Scenes of the Baltic Union", the collection of documents entitled "The 1940 Socialist Revolution in Estonia", and other researches, have found broad recognition. All those studies have shown the problems and their solutions in their accurate perspective, stating that the glorification of the progress of the bourgeois Estonian economic and cultural life by bourgeois publicists was not justified.

It is not fortuitous that the first valuable and direction-giving monographs on socialist industrialization were published by Academician A. Veimer of the Soviet Estonian Academy of Sciences, a man who has worked as Chairman both of the Council of Ministers and the Council of National Economy of the ESSR. In his works, A. Veimer has analysed the economic position inherited from the bourgeois Estonian state, showing that the unprecedented rise in Soviet Estonian national economy was made possible only thanks to advantages of the socialist system and the aid of the sister republics.

As a continuation of these research traditions, the section has begun to investigate the history of individual factories as well as various forms of socialist competition among the workers. V. Gussarova, E. Jaanvärk and O. Karma have published the histories of the electric motor plant "Volta", the cement plant "Red Kunda", and the Tallinn Cellulose and Paper Plant. The history of the Estonian railway is being written.



Publications about the history of the revolutionary movement in Estonia.



In the sixties, alongside of the studies concerning industry and labour, a group of historians headed by J. Kahk began a research into the socialist reorganization which has taken place in the countryside. A number of papers and the collection of articles "The Estonian Peasants on Their Road to Socialism" have been

published on this subject. These investigations have proved that the union of farmers in large-scale socialist agricultural enterprises was a historically inevitable process, with deep socio-economic roots. Simultaneously with other topics, the section's programme also includes cultural problems in

The workmen of the plant "Dvigatel" at a demonstration in October 1917.

both bourgeois and Soviet Estonia. These problems have been effectively investigated by Ö. Elango, K. Kask and L. Tormis.

Several papers on the cultural revolution, the friendship among nations, and the development of historical science in Soviet Estonia have been written by Academician V. Maamägi.

Investigating the general laws of the development of socialist construction, the author has dealt with the changes that have taken place in Estonia during the years of Soviet power, on the general background of the victory of socialism in all of the Baltic republics.



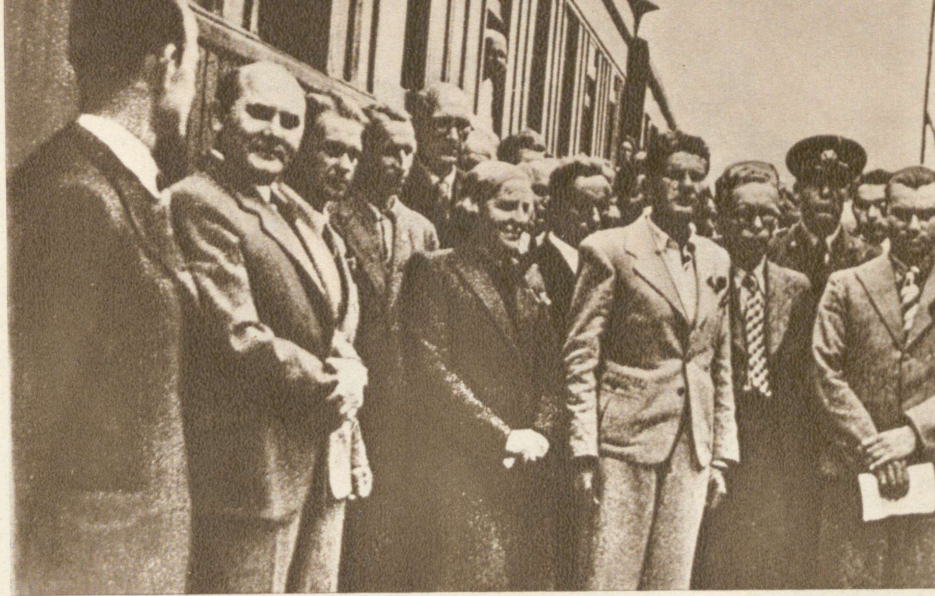
Academician
V. Maamägi.

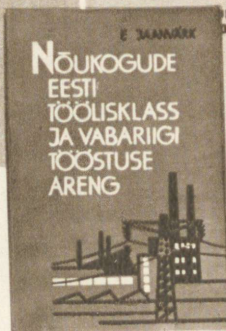
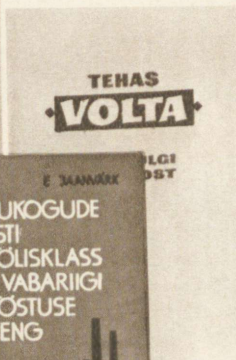
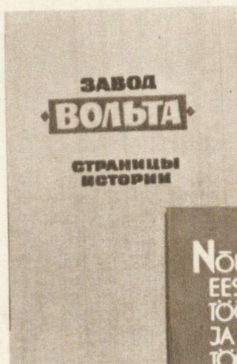


Revolutionary demonstration in Tallinn on 21. June 1940.

Delegates of the Estonian people departing from Tallinn to Moscow to take part in the session of the Supreme Soviet in August 1940.

The plants of Kohtla-Järve set to fire by the retreating fascists in 1944.





EESTI
LASKUR-
KORPUS
SUURES
ISAMAA-
SÕJAS

Land is distributed to former
farmlaborers in 1940.

Monographs published about
the Soviet period.

A meeting of scientific work-
ers studying the Soviet period.



ART HISTORY

The art history section is principally engaged in the study of Estonian art history and in the publication of a corresponding survey in several volumes. The wealth of unexplored topics in the history of Estonian art, and the numerous recent discoveries in the already investigated fields indicate that the book "History of Estonian Art" will not be a mere enumeration of facts. Based on previous independent research work, it will contain numerous hitherto unknown data and expound novel view-points. The authors treat art not as an independent phenomenon, but in its dialectic connections with the socio-economic development.

Alongside of the compilation of the above-mentioned book, the section has been dealing with a number of separate problems, principally those concerning the period of the formation of Estonian national art. The subjects investigated include the work of Kristjan Raud and Nikolai Triik – the "grand old men" of Estonian art – as well as Soviet Estonian monumental and decorative sculpture.

Fruitful results have been achieved in the study of Estonian book-designing (R. Loodus). At the present time, special attention in art history studies is focused on the problems of traditions, innovations and international contacts. K. Kirme is studying the development of Estonian applied art and its ties with Estonian folk art and with the art of other countries.

Eesti kunsti ajalugu





The "History of Art of the Estonian SSR".

The members of the Section of History of Art on a scientific excursion to Armenia in 1967.



N. Triik, by A. Laikmaa
(oil).

A meeting of the Sec-
tion of Sociology.

THE SECTION OF SOCIOLOGY

The sociology section of the Institute of History was founded in 1966. It works in a field of research which has been developing intensively all over the Soviet Union in the last few years. It is not entirely accidental that this new trend was taken up at the Institute of History. It was principally due to the necessity, clearly perceived in the studies of contemporary life, of collecting concrete and statistically accurate material as regards the processes taking place not only in the social and political deve-

lopment of our society of today, but also in the consciousness and culture of our people.

The section, which was founded only a few years ago, is at present mainly concerned with the acquisition of professional know-how, and the training of staff. Many of the investigations under way are still experimental in character and chiefly intended for contributing to the development and checking of contemporary Marxist methods, as opposed to the methods used in bourgeois sociology.



Although large-scale researches in this field are not yet completed and theoretical results inadequate, as yet, the sociology section has already achieved some interesting results, providing us with a more accurate and many-sided picture of our contemporary Soviet life.

In the field of industrial sociology, some concrete subjects have been chosen from a number of problems dealing with the workers' attitude towards work. The researchers aim to find out the factors influencing the workers' attitude towards work, their social and professional mobility and cultural development.

As a result of large-scale researches into cultural fields, quite a colourful picture of the cultural development of a small nation in our rapidly industrializing society is being unfolded. It is already evident that, despite the rather intensive development of mass-communication media in Estonia, the people's interest in such forms of culture as theatre and literature is not flagging, but increasing. As a result of sociological studies concerning books and the theatre, ways and means are being found for developing the aesthetic taste and cultural interests of our reading and theatre-going public. Precise data as to the sociodemographic structure of our theatre audiences give evidence of the lively cultural interests of our workers and peasants.

Interesting researches have been started concerning the processes taking place in the social demography of our society, with special emphasis on urbanization, a characteristic feature of our republic.

To facilitate the work of collecting and elaborating data, electronic computers and other contemporary mathematical and statistical devices are used by the section.

* * *

In the course of 22 years, the Institute of History has published 95 scientific monographs and collections with a total volume of 2,058 author's sheets, as well as many scientific and popular-scientific articles. His scientific workers have taken part in many all-Union publications.

The so-called Home Study Committee, initiated by the Academy of Sciences of the ESSR in 1958, has directed scientific home research in the republic, expanding into a large-scale cultural movement embracing some 3,500 participants from all walks of life. The leader of this movement, Academician Hans Kruus, a member of the Institute's staff, regards home study as a kind of fruitful scientific amateur activity, which in turn helps the scientists to find the right approach to the people whose past and present they study, as well as to discover new and vigorous stimuli for future work and growth.



Academician H. Kruus

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