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PUBLICATIONS ON ARCHAEOLOGY IN ESTONIA DURING 1990–2008

ÜLLE TAMLA

The article reviews the most important periodicals publications on archaeological research in Estonia during 1990–2008. The growth in the number of publications has also started to regulate and stabilize archaeological literature in Estonia. The success of these processes lies with the archaeologists working at the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu, the Institute of History of the Tallinn University and the National Heritage Board.

Keywords: periodicals, Estonian archaeology.

Apžvalgoje aptariami svarbiausi archeologiniai tęstiniai leidiniai Estijoje 1990–2008 m. Jų gausa daug prisidėjo prie archeologinės literatūros platinimo ir populiarinimo. Tai Tartu universiteto Istorijos ir archeologijos institute, Talino universiteto Istorijos institute bei Nacionalinėje paveldosaugos taryboje dirbančių archeologų nuopelnai.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: periodika, Estijos archeologija.

An archaeological research may be considered science only after it has been published. The situation with publications on archaeology was rather poor for a long period in Estonia. From the 1920ies until the end of the 1980ies only 29 monographs and 11 compendiums of articles were published in Estonia and about Estonia (based on the minimum of 50 pages). A break-through came in the 1990ies, when nearly as many titles were published as during the entire past 70 years – 10 monographs and 25 compendiums of articles (Lang, 2000, 75; Konsa, 2006, 44). The number of publications increased further in the 21st century, when the period 2000 – 2008 introduced 18 monographs and 47 compendiums of articles. The increase in publications also started to regulate and stabilize archaeological literature in Estonia. This work is done by nearly fifty active archaeologists in Estonia, but first and foremost by the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu, the Institute of History of the Tallinn University and by the National Heritage Board.

The explosive increase of publications that started at the beginning of the 1990ies was the result of a number of reasons, all connected with the collapse of the Russian empire and the regaining of Estonia's independence on the 20th of August 1991. Parallel to re-organizing the Soviet system of education and science, the whole printing business also became more democratic and de-centralized. At first the financial resources of Estonia were rather limited, but significant assistance was received from private companies (including those established for carrying out archaeological rescue excavations) and individuals. This period is characterized by several irregularly published issues that are no longer published anymore: *Eesti Arheoloogiaseltsi Teataja* (Journal of the Society of Estonian Archaeology) – the total of 7 issues in 1990–1991 introduced mainly the activities of the Society of Estonian Archaeology, established in 1989, including scientific reports presented at the meetings of the society; *Stilus* – 7 issues in 1992–1997, included scientific articles,

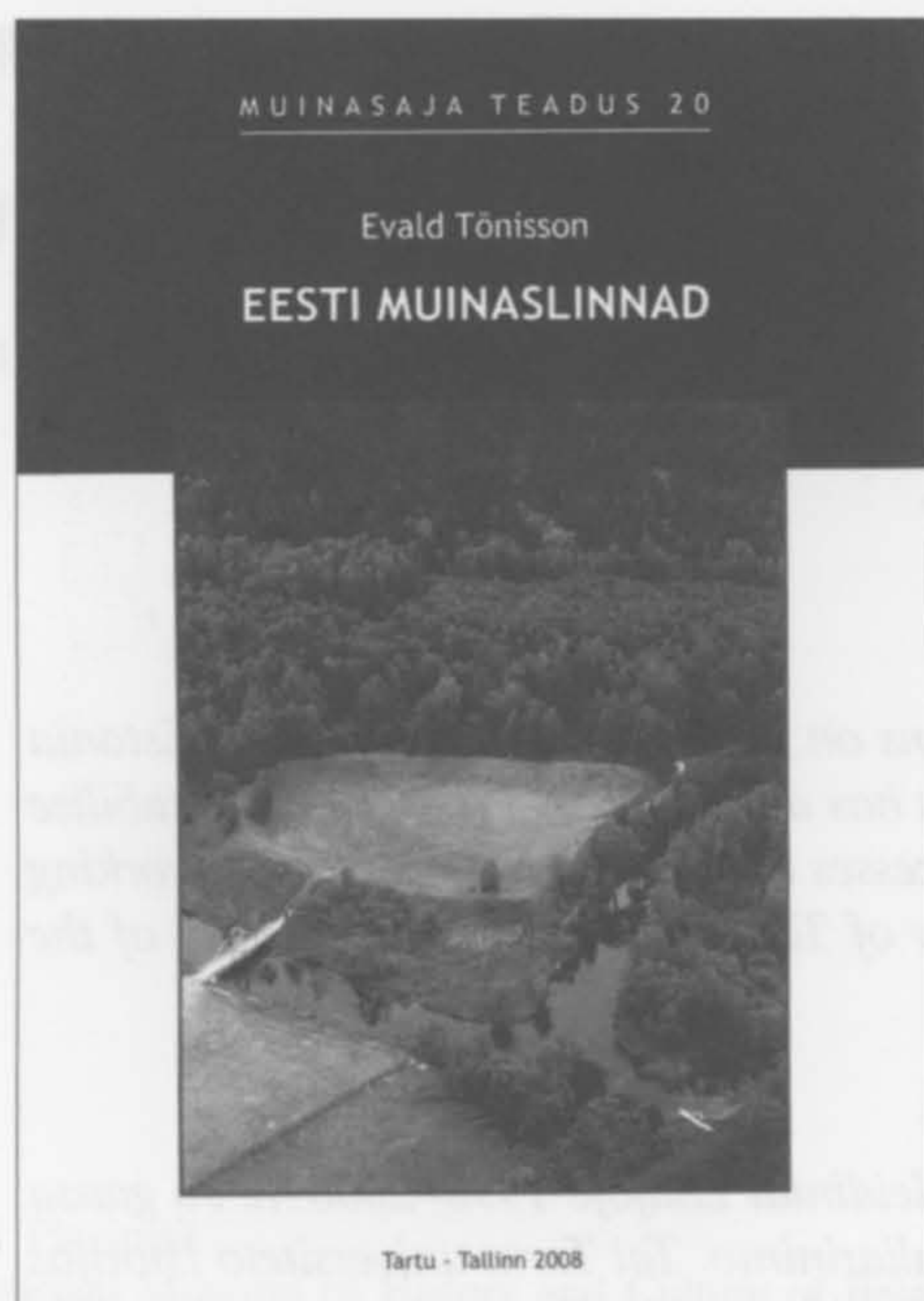


Fig. 1. The cover of the 20th volumes of *Muinasaja teadus*, 2008.

discussions, reviews and introductions of archaeological publications and overviews of the society's activities. *Stilus* 7, the last issue of the publication, concentrated entirely on the field work of 1996. *Austerweger / Idatee* – 4 issues published in 1995–1998 both in Estonian and in Russian, mainly aiming at promoting archaeology.

From 1991 the Society of Estonian Archaeology in cooperation with the Institute of History of the Estonian Academy of Sciences started to publish a new series *Muinasaja teadus* (Research into Ancient Times). The first issue concentrated on the study of objects – an area that suffered most from neglect after the war, to such an extent that it began to hinder finding solutions to a number of related problems. By now the total of 19 issues has been published in the series *Muinasaja teadus*, the list of editors has been supplemented with the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu. The content of *Muinasaja teadus* is never uniform, it includes both shorter and lengthier thematically collected articles (e.g. on Votic graves in Estonia in No 2, interdisciplinary

studies in archaeology in Nos 5 and 17, on the Stone Age in Estonia and the neighboring countries in No 8, on settlement hierarchy and the formation of power centers in No 11, on the making and use of bone artifacts in No 15, and also numerous articles on various topics from a certain time (Nos 13, 14, 18). Also several monographic studies have been published in the same series: Prehistoric Rävala by Valter Lang (No 4), Prehistoric and Medieval bone combs in Estonia by Heidi Luik (No 6), From Centre to Periphery by Valter Lang (No 7), Formation of the Iron Age culture in the Southeastern part of Estonia by Silvia Laul (No 9), Prehistoric Tartu by Andres Tvauri (No 10), Iron production and blacksmithy in Estonia and neighbouring areas in Prehistoric Period and the Middle Ages by Jüri Peets (No 12), and Latest Iron Age Pottery in Estonia by Andres Tvauri (No 16). A recent issue of the series *Eesti muinaslinnused* (Prehistoric strongholds of Estonia), published in 2008, is a collective work of Estonian archaeologists. It is a comprehensive summary of the long research history of strongholds in Estonia, the main author being Evald Tõnisson (1928–2001), Professor of Archaeology at the University of Tartu. The sudden death of Prof. Tõnisson interrupted his work with the manuscript, but his students decided to continue and complete the research so that it would also reflect the excavation results of the years after 2001. The second part of the book is a catalogue of Estonian strongholds, which presents the most important data about the 131 strongholds known in Estonia currently and gives an overview of the state of research of our mightiest monuments – the strongholds (Fig. 1).

From the year 1997 the National Heritage Board initiated the publication of an annual review *Archaeological Fieldwork in Estonia / Arheoloogilised välitööd Eestis*. Earlier it was customary for archaeologists to publish their field work results in the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Humanitarian and Social*



Fig. 2. The cover of the *Arheoloogilised välitööd Eestis*, 2007.

Sciences, but the closing of this publication cut off this possibility. The National Heritage Board considers it important to keep up the regular publication of *Archaeological Fieldwork in Estonia* in the light of fulfilling Estonia's commitment in implementing the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, signed in Valletta. Article 7 of the Valletta Convention obliges each party 'to take all practical measures to ensure the drafting, following operations, of a publishable scientific summary record before the necessary comprehensive publication of specialized studies'. Articles in this publication written in English or German languages with Estonian summaries have facilitated fast distribution of primary information on archaeological studies. The established format of the publication has justified itself with the readers, but the Editorial Board is also ready for new ideas: from 2007 *Archaeological Fieldwork in Estonia* is a pre-reviewed publication with an international Editorial Board (Fig. 2).

In 1997 the first issue of the *Eesti arheoloogia ajakiri* / *Journal of Estonian Archaeology* reached

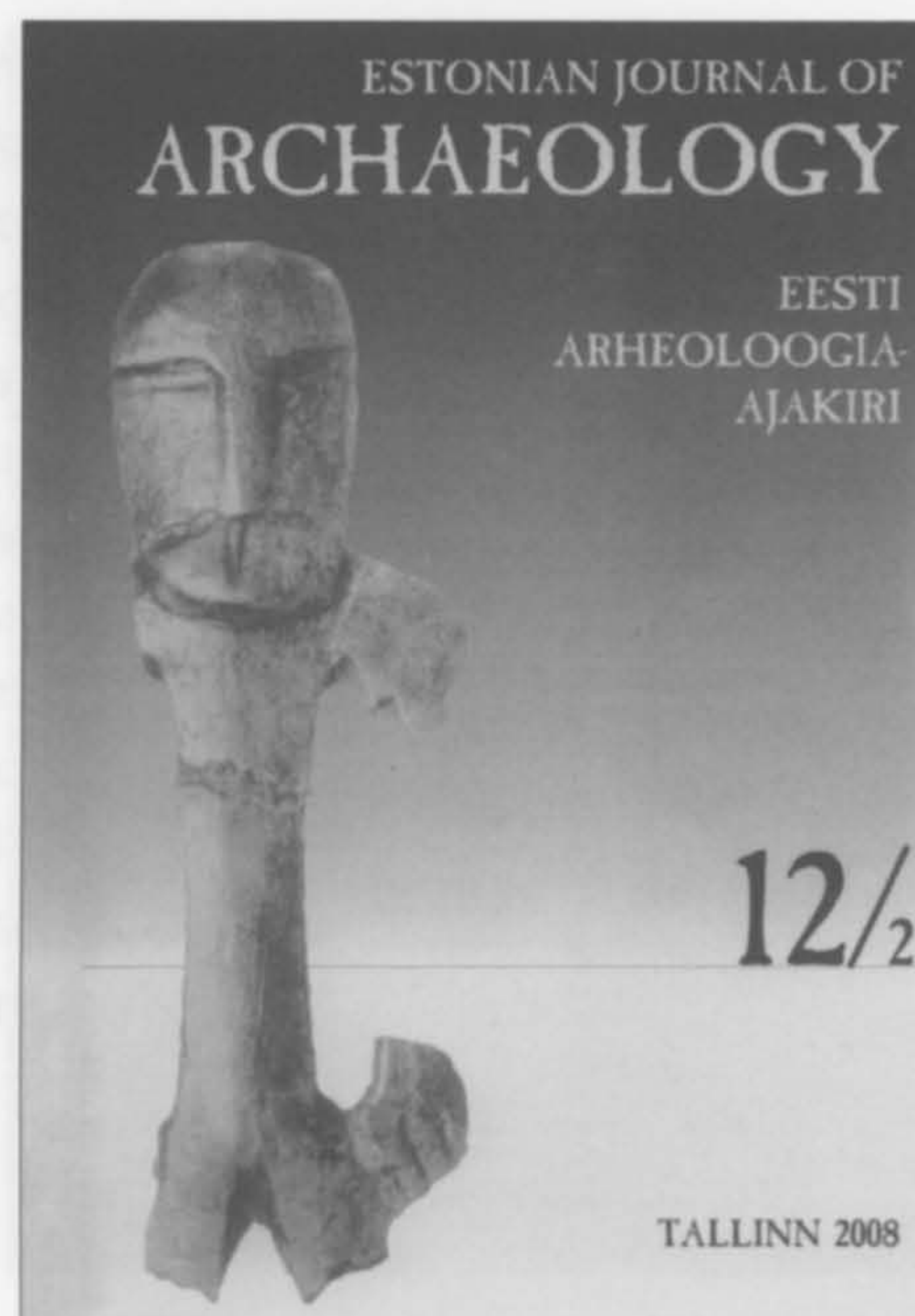


Fig. 3. The cover of the *Eesti arheoloogia ajakiri*, 2008, vol. 12/2.

the public. Together with *Archaeological Fieldwork in Estonia* this is the second regularly published archaeological magazine in Estonia (in 1997 and 1998 one issue per year, up to now two issues). Since 2004 the edition is published in English and has been renamed *The Estonian Journal of Archaeology* (Fig. 3). The journal is pre-reviewed and is edited by an international Board of Editors, the publishing is funded by the Institute of History of the Tallinn University, the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu and the Estonian Academy of Sciences. From the beginning both Estonian and foreign authors have contributed to the journal, their articles are in compliance with the requirements and standards set for scientific articles. Naturally preference is given to papers concentrating on the archaeological issues of Estonia and the neighboring countries, but space is always allocated also to reviews, discussions and overviews of conferences, symposia, congresses etc. From the year 2004 onwards the full text of *The Estonian Journal of Archaeology* is electroni-

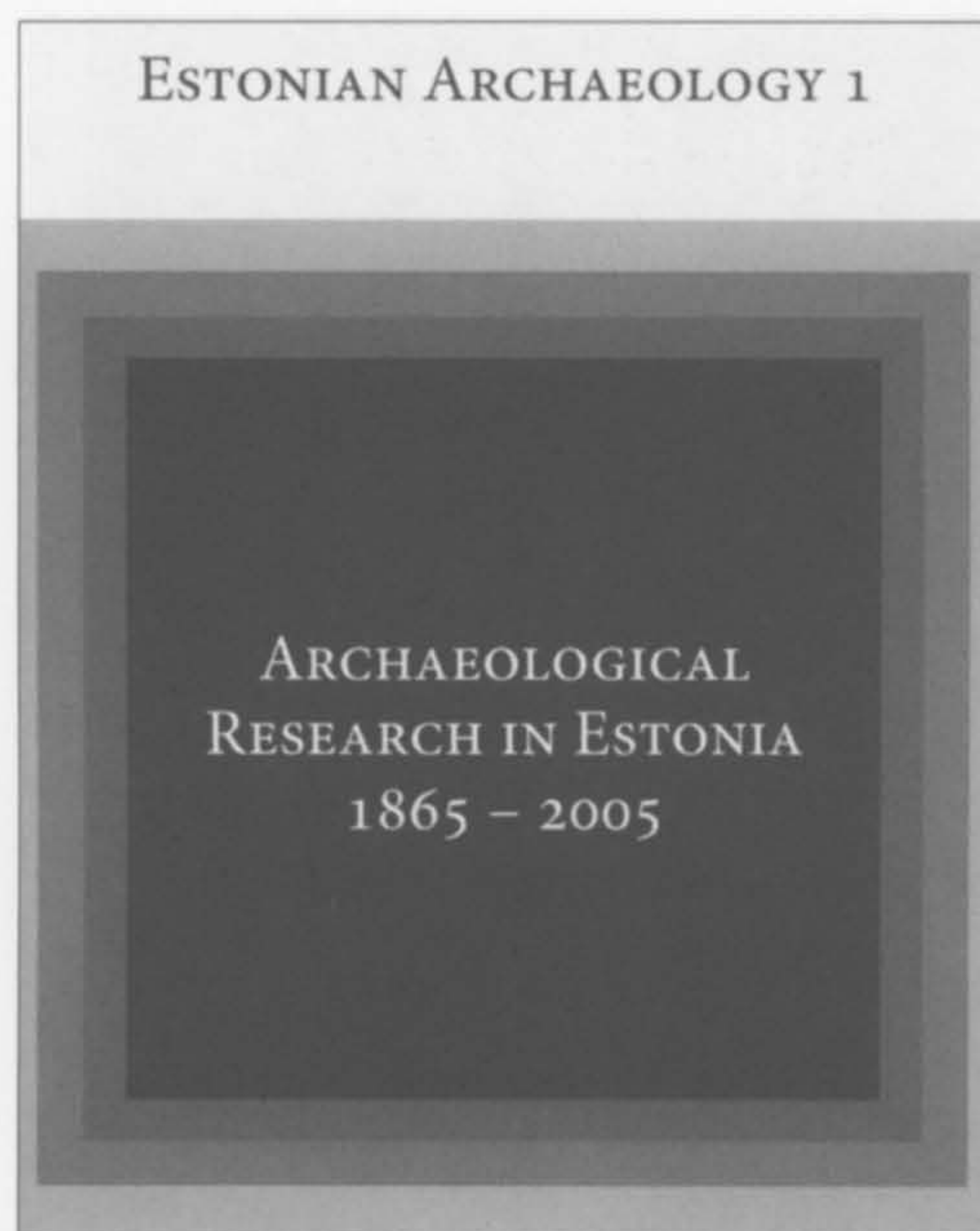


Fig. 4. The cover of the *Estonian Archaeology*, 2006, vol. 1.

cally available in Central and Eastern European Online Library (C.E.E.O.L.).

In 2006 a new series of the University of Tartu was introduced – *Estonian Archaeology*. This is an English language publication, aiming at giving a comprehensive and versatile overview of Estonian archaeology, including achievements on an international scale. The editorial board is international and presently two pre-reviewed issues have been published in this series. The first volume of the collection *Archaeological Research in Estonia in 1865–2005* is dedicated to the historiography and analysis of Estonian archaeology (Fig. 4). The twelve authors are in one or other way connected with the University of Tartu and are regarded as the most renowned scientists in archaeology in present-day Estonia. The next volumes of the series will focus on the analyses of the different prehistoric and historic periods. In 2008 the edition by Valter Lang *The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in Estonia* was published, which offers new views on social, economic, material and intellectual cultural processes from the 18th century BC to the 5th cen-

tury AD that took place on the territory of present-day Estonia.

A separate subject field is the bulky overviews about pre-historic times in the symposia of Estonian counties. Until now three volumes have been published with contributions by Toomas Tamla about the County of *Virumaa* (1996), by Priit Lätti about the County of *Järvamaa* (2007) and by Marika Mägi about the County of *Saaremaa* (2007).

The distinctive South-Eastern part of Estonia, called Setumaa, has deserved special attention from the initiative of Mare Aun, who initiated the publication *Setumaa kogumik* (Setumaa Symposium) in 2003. By now already four issues of this series have been published, which all include new interesting surveys of archaeological research in this area.

In addition to the above-mentioned scientific articles in periodic publications, research results have also been published as separate editions. As an example the following may be mentioned: the doctoral thesis on rural cemeteries in South Estonia by Heiki Valk in 2001, the doctoral thesis on burial places and customs on the island Saaremaa and social organization there by Marika Mägi in 2002, the doctoral thesis about bone and antler artifacts in Estonia from the Viking Age to the Middle Ages by Heidi Luik in 2005; the doctoral thesis on import pottery in the towns of West Estonia in the 13th–17th centuries by Erki Russow in 2006; research by Silvia Laul and Heiki Valk published in 2007 about the Siksälä archaeological ensemble in South-East Estonia, representing the development of social, political, cultural and religious processes in the periphery of Livonia from the perspective of general Europeanization.

Supplementary to the above mentioned, interesting archaeological research results are regularly published by the local, municipal and regional museums of Estonia. Known for their high scientific standard are the series *Töid ajaloo alalt* (Papers on History) by the Estonian History Museum, *Viljandi muuseumi aastaraamat* (Yearbook of the Viljandi Museum), *Pärnumaa ajalugu* (History of

Pärnumaa) published by the Museum of Pärnu, and *Saaremaa muuseumi toimetised* (Saaremaa Museum and its activities) published by the Museum of Saaremaa. The publications of the museums in Viljandi, Pärnu and Saaremaa mostly concentrate on their regions, the topics in the publications of the Estonian History Museum cover nearly the whole territory of Estonia. The museum also published the doctoral thesis of one of their archaeologists, Mati Mandel in 2003 – *Läänemaa 5.–13. sajandi kalmed* (Graves in Läänemaa in the 5th–13th cc.).

Apart from the above-mentioned publications, Estonian archaeologists have been active during the past twenty years publishing the results of their work in other languages and in other countries. This was connected first of all with the fact that Estonian archaeologists started to participate in international co-operation projects and professional membership organizations. Several publications were issued in 1990–2008 in the framework of such projects like the *PACT Project* of the Council of Europe, European Union projects *Pathways to Cultural Landscapes* and *European Cultural Paths*, a European archaeo-metallurgy project *EAMP, EARTH* – a working group of ancient field systems and early farming, *Castella Maris Baltici* – a working group studying strongholds in the Baltic Sea countries, *Lübecker Kolloquium zur Stadtarchäologie im Hanseraum* by

an urban archaeology working group studying the Hanseatic towns, the *CCC-project* studying the processes of Europeanization in the Baltic Sea Region, *ICAZ* (Worked Bone Research Group) and an international working group *UISPP* studying archaeological amber.

A detailed overview of the latest publications by Estonian archaeologists and archaeology in Estonia can be consulted in two editions of the Institute of History, published in Tallinn (EAB II; EAB III). The earlier issue contains bibliography of Estonian archaeology in 1986 – 1996 and the latter covers the period 1997–2004.

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TESTINIAI ARCHEOLOGIJOS LEIDINIAI ESTIJOJE 1990–2008 METAIS

Ülle Tamla

Santrauka

Archeologinių tyrinėjimų rezultatai į mokslą patenka tik juos išspausdinus. Ilgą laiką archeologijos publikavimo mastai Estijoje buvo labai

menki. Lūžis įvyko XX a. paskutiniajame dešimtmetyje. Nuo 1990-ųjų, per mažiau nei 20 metų buvo paskelbta publikacijų beveik tiek pat, kiek

per 70 metų lig tol. Publikacijų ypač padaugėjo XXI a., kuomet per 2000–2008 metų laikotarpį pasirodė 17 monografijų ir 41 straipsnių rinkinys. Tai maždaug penkiasdešimties archeologų darbo rezultatas, tačiau daugiausiai prie to prisidėjo Tartu universiteto Istorijos ir archeologijos instituto, Talino universiteto Istorijos instituto bei Nacionalinės paveldosaugos tarybos tyrinėtojai.

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