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HOMERIC SCAMANDER, SIMOIS, TROY-ILION & LYCIA
vs. SKAMJA-ON-THE-NAROVA, SÖÖMOJA, VTROJA & LUGA-LAUKA

• original in the English language:

<https://new-etymology.livejournal.com/381082.html>

• in the Italian language:

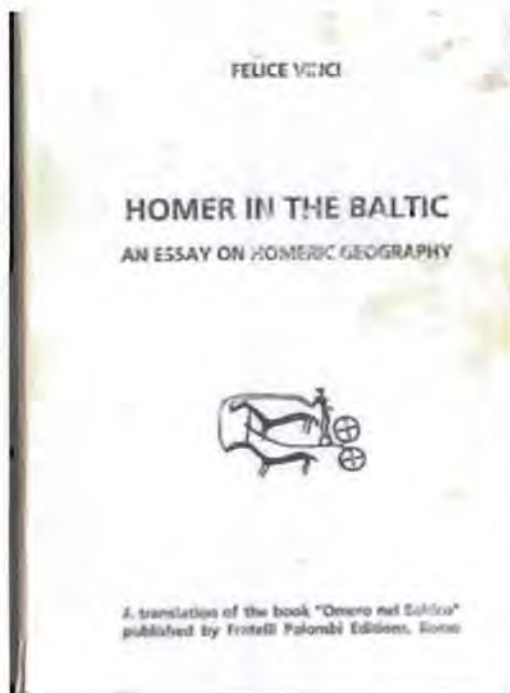
"TROIA" TRA ESTONIA E RUSSIA?

<https://www.larazzodelltempo.it/2022/troia-estonia/>

• in the Russian language:

НАРВСКАЯ ВТРОЯ

<https://eesti-keel.livejournal.com/216501.html>



WHERE WAS TROY?

Felice Vinci identified the Gulf of Finland with the Homeric wide Hellespont (following, among other indications, the guide by Saxo Grammaticus). In his search for Troy, Felice Vinci explored, however, only the northern shores of the Gulf of Finland—given Homer's indication of Troy's location as northwest of the sea (*Iliad* 21.334–335)—considering that this reference was made with respect to the wide Hellespont (the Gulf of Finland), and not the Baltic Sea as a whole. As a result, the southern coast of the Gulf was excluded from the search, and emphasis was placed on the village of *Toija* in southwestern Finland. *Kurkelanjoki* river was identified as Scamander. The village of *Aijala*, located 7 kilometers downstream of *Kurkelanjoki*, due to a consonance with Greek *aigialós* – ‘shore’ (*γιαλός*, *gialos* in modern Greek), was taken by Felice for the former coastal strip of the times before the presumed rise of the land by 10-15 meters.

Regarding the name *Toija*, Felice considered that it might be a distortion of the original *Troy* (*Troia*), due to the rejection of double consonants at the beginning of words in Finnic languages. It should be noted, however, that Finnic-speaking peoples drop off the first consonant, and not the second one, in the borrowed words (i.e. *Troia* should have become 'Roija', not *Toija*). Also, the placename *Toija* is widely present all across the different parts of Finland (there are more than 10 *Toija*'s in Finland), which indicates that the name *Toija* is original in its form.

As for *Aijala*, it might be that this name was not related to the hypothetic former coastal line: in Finnish *Aijala* is, literally, "the place of the god of the sky, weather, harvest and thunder" (*Aijä* is one of the names of this god in Finnish mythology; -la is the place suffix).

Also, the coastal line in Finland (both the current one, and any previous one "before the sea ran away") – is *rugged* and *has almost no sandy beaches* wide enough to accomodate a fleet of "1200" ships of Achaean coalition. Thus, it is of interest to have a look at the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, which is, on the contrary, plentiful of such beaches. Particular attention should be drawn to the Narva Bay, with its more than 20 km of sandy beach on both sides of the mouth of Narova river – where one can very vividly imagine the landing of a huge flotilla and the construction of a long defensive wall:



SCAMANDER, SIMOIS, TROY-ILION and LYCIA vs. *SKAMJA-ON-THE-NAROVA, SÖÖMOJA, VTROJA and LUGA-LAUKA*

In the search of the place of Homeric Ilion by the wide Hellespont, one should first of all pay attention to the distinct morphological characteristics of the river, adjacent to which the Trojan city stood. As the *Iliad* informs in detail,

*...that broadest and deep-swirling river
the gods call Xanthus, but all men name Scamander. (Iliad 20.73-74)*

*When the Trojans reached the ford across the Xanthus,
lovely swirling river born of immortal Zeus,
(...) He crammed
half the Trojans in along the river,
trapped by its deep currents and its silver eddies.*

*They fell in there, making a huge commotion.
The noise roared down along the rushing river banks
amplifying the din. Men thrashed around, back and forth,
as they were sucked down in the current screaming.
Just as fire drives flights of locusts to seek refuge
in some river, when the tireless flames attack them
in a sudden onrush and they sink below the water—
that's how, faced with Achilles' attacking charge,
a confused mass of chariots and men filled up
the deep and swirling waters of the river Xanthus. (Iliad 21.1-16)*

The 'broadest', 'deep', 'deep-swirling', 'sucking down in the current' – these are definitely not the characteristics of the river Menderes (Turk. Kara Menderes, 'Black' Menderes) near the excavation site of an ancient city identified as 'Troy' by Schliemann in Asia Minor in the 19th Century. It is neither broad, nor deep-swirling:



in photos: low and middle Menderes

Also, Kurkelanjoki river identified as ‘Scamander’ by Felice Vinci in the South-West of Finland, near to the village of Toija, is neither broad, nor deep-swirling:



in photo: Kurkelanjoki

In the middle of the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, however, one finds a river ideally fitting the description of Scamander in the *Iliad*: the river of Narova (Narva), the *broadest* among all of the rivers of the southern coast, carrying the waters of all rivers absorbed by lake Peipus, further into the Gulf of Finland. The upper Narova has an incised channel 150–200 meters wide, further broadening to 300–400–500 m wide. The river bed is *full of rapids*, the slope of the river is 0.5 ‰. The prevailing *depths of the river are 5–6 meters, in whirlpools – up to 9–11 meters.*¹



¹ See https://water-rf.ru/Водные_объекты/1183/Нарва



in photos: Narova, its rapids and the two ancient fortresses on its banks, facing each other:
Narva and Jaanilinn

The *Iliad* also tells that Scamander periodically overflows its banks: during the battle, “The plain (...) was all full of flooded water” (*Iliad* 21.300); and, after the defeat of Troy, Scamander will demolish the ruined walls with its flood (*Iliad* 12.17-22). Considering that the battle takes place during the period of ‘white nights’ (the *amphilykē nýx*, the “dimly-lit night” at summer solstice) allowing the battle to be fought uninterruptedly for two days, without a night break, these descriptions are very consistent with the characteristic floods on the Narova river. **On average, the annual spring floods of Narova commence on April 2 and end on July 9.** Surge fluctuations in the water level at the mouth of the Narova river reach 2-3 meters.²



in the photo: a spring flood in Vask-Narva in the 1920s – “it was possible to move around in the village only upon the special lifted pavements or by boats”³

Book 12 of the *Iliad*, in the description of a huge flood that shall wash away the ruined walls of the defeated Troy, also enlists the rivers which contribute to the rise of the waters:

*...Poseidon and Apollo decided
to destroy the [Trojan] wall by flinging the rivers at it,
all that run from the mountains of Ida to the sea:
the Rhesus, the Heptaporus, the Caresus and the Rhodius,
the Granicus, the Aesepus, the divine Scamander
and the Simois (Iliad 12.17-22)*

In Asia Minor the river of Granicus (called Biga now) flows 60 km east of Hisarlik, directly into the sea, and thus cannot join waters with Kara Menderes traditionally considered to be the Scamander, where Schliemann's Troy stands. The nearby river (identified as Simois, but never called so) is also not affluent of Menderes. Nor are any of the other rivers mentioned in Book 12 of the *Iliad* present anywhere near to Hisarlik.

If *Ida hills* are identified with the **Luga-Lauka highland**, however (see map attached), there are multiple rivers that flow from these hills into the lake Peipus, and eventually all feed Narova-Scamander, which is the only river outflowing from Peipus lake into the sea (into the Gulf of Finland – the wide Hellespont). Indeed, Narova overflows frequently. As regards the river names, one should start with the largest river feeding lake Peipus – riv. *Velikaya*, on which the city of Pskov stands. Velikaya translates from Russian as ‘Great’ river, rio ‘Grande’, which may well correspond to *Granicus*. *Heptaporus* might correspond to river *Keb*; *Caresus* – to *Kira* or *Čereha*; *Aesepus* – to *Issa*; *Rhodius* – to *Rietupe*; *Rhesus* – to *Rika* – all being the tributaries of Velikaya. *Hepta-porus* could also correspond to the Estonian river of *Opt-joki* flowing into the lake Peipus.

However, these are distant rivers, and the above coincidences may well be random consonances. Let us first of all pay attention to the Narova river itself and the areas closely adjacent to it.

² See https://water-ri.ru/Водные_объекты/1183/Нарва

³ Settlements of Ponarovy: <https://www.facebook.com/leonid.nashidov.984>

Ironically (or by means of preservation of the historic memory?), on the likely site of the former *sacred Ilion* (the alternative name for Troy used in the *Iliad*), in the village of Skamja, a white-stone church of *Saint Elijah* was erected. On the opposite bank, in the village of Syrenets (Vask-Narva), a second white-stone church of *Saint Elijah* was built. Together they formed a kind of *sacred white Ilean "gates"* at the source of a mighty river (marked with two crosses in the map of 1938 below):



<http://www.etomesto.ru/map-europe-estonia-topo-1938/>

There was a kind of rivalry between the two villages – the churches of both settlements were dedicated to the *prophet Elijah*, and they both celebrated the feast of their saint patron Elijah for three days in early August (*Ильин день*).⁴

There is also a curious potential connection of worshipping *Elijah* to that of God *Lug*, about which Felice Vinci wrote in Chapter 3.4 as follows: "...the Celtic summer festival known as Lughnasa, dedicated to Lug, a god and hero of Irish sagas. Of the four main feast days in the Celtic calendar (one for each season), Lughnasa, on August 1, which became largely a harvest festival, was originally dedicated to the king, good government, family and marriage, social welfare. The fact that this feast is celebrated in summer emphasizes Lug's solar, or Apollonian, features, which Jean Markale claims have been "far too ignored: his name means *whiteness, light*; in Irish epos he is referred to as a *solar, radiant* hero, who never really dies, but rises every morning."

Interestingly, name *Log* is comparable to Icelandic *loga* – "to burn"; Old Icel. *log* – "a flame, light"; Est. *lõke, lõkke* – "a flame, bonfire"; Greek *λεγκός, levkós* – "bright, glistering".

And *Elijah*, by name, resembles the Greek Sun God, *ἥλιος, Helios*. Compare further to Votic *eliä*, Fin. *heleä* – "bright, light", etc. It is likely that the Christian Elijah has its roots in the pagan religions, continuously brought forward in the rural communities, such as those of Skamja and Vask-Narva up until the early 20th century.

According to some researchers, before the adoption of Christianity in Russia, *Perun's Day* was celebrated, which then became called *Ilyin's Day*, incorporating many pre-Christian traditions. The image of *Elijah the Prophet*, due to the similarity of functions, organically replaced the Thunderer Perun. The idea that Ilya "*rides across the sky in a chariot, thunders and shoots lightning, is chasing a snake*", is not a Slavic innovation. A.N.Veselovsky cites the opinion of the Greek researcher Nikolai Politus, according to whom some features of *Zeus* and the sun god *Helios* passed to the saint *Elijah* (thanks to homonymy, the presence of a fiery chariot, etc.).⁵

⁴ See <https://narova.spb.ru/service/ekskursii.html/#4551ced5b96c5ad5d>

⁵ See https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Илья-ин_день.

*I could run away on foot from the wall elsewhere,
toward the Ileian Plain, until I reach
the gorges of Ida and hide in the bush (Iliad 21.557–559).*

Although the name of *Ileian Plain* could derive from the name of the city (*Ilion*), it is curious to compare the name of *Ileian Plain* to Rus. *елань, алань* [*jelan', alan'*] – “a low grassy place, convenient for pastures and mowing”; Fin. *alanko* – “a lowland”; Tatar *алан, аланлык* [*alan, alanlyk*], Turk. *alan* – “a lawn, a clearing in a forest”.⁶

Primitive hunters and fishermen began to settle at the source of Narova river already 10 thousand years ago. The sites of the ancient human settlements were found by the archaeologists also near the village of *Skamja*.

It is also known that there was a *Russian fortress* of at least the 14th century, called *Skamja*. “The exact location of the fortress is unclear, but it is assumed that it was located in a place where it was most convenient to cross the river. Most likely, this wooden fortress stood *at the mouth of the Vtroja River*” [*Söömoja*].⁷

Exactly opposite to *Vtroja estuary*, in Vask-Narva, there stood a *Livonian fortress*, also attributed to the 14th century (*Neushloss, Nyslott*) – thus, ‘copying’ the situation closer to Narova’s estuary, where the Livonian castle of Narva is faced by the Russian fortress of *Ivangorod (Jaani-linn)*.



in photo: Vasknarva castle ruins, 1935



in drawing: Narva-linn castle facing Ivangorod (Jaani-linn) closer to Narova estuary.

⁶ The possible stem word: Est., Fin., Karel., Livon., Veps. *ala, alla, alā, alaz*, Erzia, Moksha *al*, Mari *ül-*, Udmurt *ul*, Selkup. *il*, Hung. *alá* – “below, under”; Turk. *alçak* – “low”; Turk., Azeri *alt, altı, altında* – “under, below”. Compare further to *Holland*, Ital. *Olanda*, (= the Netherlands, literally, “lowland”; Ital. *Paesi Bassi*) – nevertheless, etymologists prefer to deduct a different etymology for Holland.

⁷ See [https://narova.spb.ru/service/ekskursii.html/#29\)c8bca034837\[a2](https://narova.spb.ru/service/ekskursii.html/#29)c8bca034837[a2)

Presumably, the names (V)Troja~Trov, Skamja~Scamander, Elijah's place~Ilion, Söömoja~Simois – could have been used as mere *indicative, identifying* in the Homeric epic, been the local well-known placenames at the source of Narova river, at the important point of the ancient trade waterway. The Homeric fortress **Trov** itself (let's call it "Vtroja-2"), most likely, was **at the site of the current Ivangorod-Jaanilinn** (on the eastern bank of Narova-Scamander, as *Iliad* informs us), while the Homeric Simois was the river of **Plüssa** (let's call it "Söömoja-2"), the eastern tributary of Narova just above Jaanilinn. The ancient Homeric ford was likely located on the rapids between Narva-linn and Jaanilinn, where the river 'dries' its rapids in July-August.

As for the *Trojan battle*, it likely took place on the plain between Jaanilinn and the old sandy coastline of the Gulf of Finland, the place of landing of the "1200" ships of the Achaean alliance, gathered from all the shores of the Baltic (clearly described in the *Catalog of Ships* in the *Iliad*).

The reason(s) for the war was(were) (a) the abduction of Helen, marriage to whom gave royal powers to Paris and/or (b) the control over the ancient *Amber Road* (the *Hellespont*) – which also brought an immense wealth to Troy (not the copper mine near the Finnish Toija, associated by Felice Vinci with the wealth of Troy). However, the reason was rather the abduction of Helen: as Felice very justifiably states, the Achaeans did not even leave a military garrison in Troy, after its conquer.

"Lycia", the main ally of Troy, and other allies

The frequency of mentions of *Lycia*, the ally of Troy, is immense in the *Iliad*. In *The Mycenaean Origin of Greek Mythology* Martin P. Nilsson states that **"The passages where Lycia and Lycians are mentioned are too numerous to be enumerated"**. This even led Andres Pääbo to locate Troy itself in Lycia in Asia Minor (*The Iliad and evidence that many details about Troy and the Trojan War came from ancient Lycia*).⁸

The region of *Lycia* in the Asia Minor (*Lukki* or *Lukka* in Egyptian, Hittite and Ugaritic texts of 1500-1200 BC) must have gotten its name from the name of a river – *Lycus* or *Lykos* (Greek: Λύκος), which was a common name for Greek rivers, so this must have been a lost name of the river Xanthos (today Eşen) in Lycia. Yet, Lycia in Asia Minor is very far from Hissarlik and the Asiatic Hellespont.

All this makes one take a closer look at the regions and rivers adjacent to Scamander-Söömoja-Vtroja-Narva. The *second largest river* after Narva, along the Southern coast of the Gulf of Finland, all the way between today's Tallinn and St.Petersburg, is the river called **Luga** (in Votic – **Lauka**) – with its lower valley located just 15 km east of Scamander-Narva estuary!

Scamander-Narva was an important waterway from the Gulf of Finland (Wide Hellespont) via Peipus lake to Tartu and Pskov. Likewise, *Luga-Lauka* (*Lukka-Lycia*) was a no less important ancient waterway connection of the Gulf of Finland to Novgorod (using onland dragging passages of Bolshoi Volok and Ozhogin Volochek to the rivers Kiba-Mšaga-Šelon' leading to the lake of Ilmen – see maps below). The rivers of Scamander-Narva and Lycia-Luga were like twin brothers, located on the strategic trade crossway, with many prehistoric settlements on their banks – and no wonder the frequency of *Lycians* mention as *the most important allies* of Trojans in the *Iliad*.

Indeed, early in the text of the *Iliad* the Trojan side is described as "*Trojans and Lycians*"; later Homer adds the "*Dardanians*" (allies that hurried to help from *Tartu*? or from the castle of *Tara* west of Narva?).

As the matter of fact, also many of the placenames identified by Felice Vinci in Finland sounding like the other allies of Troy, as well as their commanders, and other Homeric names, can be frequently found on the Southern coast of the Gulf of Finland. Below are just a few examples, merely along the coastal line, westwards and eastwards of Narva:

⁸ See <http://www.paabo.ca/papers/pdfcontents.html>

- to the west of Narva: *Askala*, *Pada*, *Päite*, *Tamme*, *Toomika*, *Käva*, *Kabala*, *Moonaküla*, *Aseri*, *Eisma*, *Aro-Vainu*, *Rutja*, *Kavastu*, *Idavere*, *Päide*, *Arüküla*, *Aresi-Altküla*, *Aresi-Vanaküla*, *Metskulli*, *Abaja*, 1st Millenium BC castles of *Tara* and *Kele*, *Allika* spings, estuary of river *Purtse*, island of *Monis* (*Mona*) next to *Tholis*; *Ida-Virumaa* (all the north-eastern area, where *Ida* means 'east, eastern') etc.
- to the east of Narva: villages of *Niso*, *Pjata* and *Pagoda*, castle of *Koporje* (*Kaporje*), village of *Babino* and its same-named lake and swamps, river of *Sista*, river and village of *Kovaši*, villages of *Sipilä* and *Tamengont*, and, of course, the immense lands of *Karjala* people, commencing at the ancient border along the river *Sestra*.

Many of these names are actually replicas of the place names in the South of Finland, as this was a part of the *same domain*. Per Edgar Walter Saks⁹ studies, the names in the South of Finland were given by migrants of 'Kogela culture' from the Northern coast of the Gulf of Finland. For example, *Askala* just to the west of Narva, according to Saks, corresponds to *Askala* and *Askainen* in Finland, and represents the 1st Millenium coastal settlement "well known for its seafaring activities".¹⁰

Compare *Askala* to *Ascanius*, the leader of a contingent allied to the Trojans (*Iliad* 2.862–863); *Käva*, *Kabala*, *Kaporje* or *Kovaši* to: "...had just arrived/ from *Cabesus*" (*Iliad* 13.363–364); *Karja*, *Karjala* (Karelians and Karelia) – to *Carians*, the allies of Troy; *Abaja* – to the *Abii*, "the most law-abiding of men" (*Iliad* 13.6); *Aro-Vainu*, *Arüküla*, *Aresi-Vanaküla* or *Aresi-Altküla* – to *Arisbe*; the 1st Millenium BC castle of *Kele* west of Narva may correspond to *Cilla* (*Killa*), Apollo's shrine; *Päite* – to *Paiso*, the native town of Amphius, Priam's ally; village of *Moonaküla*, or island of *Monis* (*Mona*) next to *Tholis* – might correspond to Troy's allies "*Maeonians*, who had been born under *Tmolus*" (*Iliad* 2.864–866); *Allika* spings to the west of Narva, now a national spings park – to *Alybe*, "the birthplace of silver"; *Niso*, *Pjata* or *Pagoda*, a few kilometers to the east of Narva might correspond to the *Lyrnessus* and *Pedasmus* in the *Ida* area "plundered by the Achacans" (*Iliad* 20.89–92); *Babino* lake and swamps might correspond to Homeric *Boebeian limnē* ('swamp'); river *Sista*, flowing into the bay of *Kaporje*, or river *Sestra* further to the East – to Homeric *Caystrius*, *Cyster* ("And as the many tribes of winged fowl, / wild geese or cranes or long-necked swans / on the mead by the streams of *Caystrius*", *Iliad* 2.459–463); etc.

Compare also the first suitable river estuary of *Purtse* just west of Narva – to *Percotes*, place of the alternative landing of Troy's ally, Iphidamas, who "left his fine ships in *Percotes* / and reached Ilium going on foot" (*Iliad* 11.229–230).

Narva-Luga interfluvial zone – the center of an ancient civilization

"The history of archaeological study of the Narova-Luga interfluvial zone dates back about a century and a half, but the systematic search for archaeological sites of the Stone Age that began in the 1990s showed a truly unique concentration of such objects for the eastern part of the Baltic region. The systematic searches and study of Stone Age – Early Metal Age sites in the Russian part of the Narova-Luga interfluvial zone, began in the mid-2000s. To date, 86 archeological sites have been recorded here (64 on the Russian side). Obviously, not all objects have been identified. But the results obtained allow us to speak of a *unique concentration* of the remains of ancient human sites in the entire region of the Gulf of Finland".

See *Monuments of the Stone Age of the Russian part of the Narova-Luga interfluvial zone*; St. Petersburg, Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2019, pp. 8, 26.

⁹ Edgar Walter Saks (1910-1984), a historian and the Minister of Education of the Estonian government in exile (1971-1984).

¹⁰ E.W.Saks. *AESTIL. An Analysis of an Ancient European Civilization*, Montreal, 1960, p.254.

It is noteworthy that section "Landscapes, geomorphology and paleogeography" of the quoted scientific digest, hypotheses of repeated *immediate significant rises and falls of the sea level* are mentioned. At the same time, it is reported that not enough research has been carried out to accurately reconstruct maps of the former coastlines in the Narova-Luga interfluvial zone, with an allocation to different periods. It is also noteworthy that the scholars do *not* mention the well-known hypothesis of a *gradual slow rise of the land over the sea level* after its release from the glacier (an outdated theory?).

Back in the 1980s, it was proposed to carry out additional extensive excavations in addition to those already commenced, for the *Ivangorod (Jaaniinn) Neolithic site*: **"The cultural layer reaches 2 meters in some places, and the presence of remains of various structures in the layer was recorded in a number of areas; the chronological range of finds obtained as a result of named studies, is extremely large".**¹¹



Рис. 141. Предлагаемая зона культурного слоя на плане г. Ивангород.
[Историко-градостроительный анализ... 1983]

in map; medieval fortress of Ivangorod (on the left) and the more ancient archaeological site to be explored (to the right)

¹¹ Regardless, in 2019 the Russian Academy of Sciences declared the *Ivangorod Neolithic site* to be... "incorrectly included in the lists of protected monuments of archeology" (!) See pp. 153-162. This reminds of the story of Cape Okhtinsky and the ancient Nyen fortress and even more ancient settlements in its place in the center St. Petersburg, which *impede the commercial development of the respective zone*: "The conclusion of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation of 1 December 2021 states that there are *no* grounds for creating a full-fledged museum-reserve on the territory of the Okhtinsky Cape, where **unique archaeological layers were previously discovered, including settlements of people from the Neolithic era, early metal era, fortresses of the 14th and 17th centuries**" (The 'groundless' grounds!) See:

https://www.rbc.ru/spb_sz/10/12/2021/61b30af89a79479db364a90a?from=from_main_6



An arrowhead found at Petriküla. Photo by Aivar Kriiska. Рисунок 2. Найденный в Петрикюла наконечник стрелы. Фото Айсара Крийска



Location of find a Bronze Age bronze arrowhead in Petriküla. Figure by Aivar Kriiska based on map by the Estonian Land Board. Рисунок 1. Место обнаружения бронзового наконечника стрелы эпохи бронзы в Петрикюла. Рисунок Айсара Крийска на основе данных Земельного департамента.

The excavations on the Estonian banks of Narova river are led by the team of Aivar Kriiska, archaeologist from Tartu University. One of the recently excavated settlements near the Narova river, dates back to the Stone Age (2800-2000 BC), another is presumably to the Bronze or Iron Age. "If we also take into account the excavations that we, together with our Russian colleagues, conducted on the other side of the Narova, then there are more than 60 such settlements in the lower reaches of the Narova," Kriiska specifies. "Ancient people densely populated the lower reaches of the Narova". One of the sites was excavated in the center of the city of Narva, near Lipovka.¹²

"...The main discovery of Kriiska [in one of the last excavations near Narova] was that wooden buildings existed on the territory of Estonia as early as 2800 BC. "Before, the oldest structures found in Estonia were dated back to around 900 BC. They were discovered near Tallinn. Of course, this does not mean that there are no more ancient buildings. Perhaps they have yet to be discovered," notes Aivar Kriiska. Two buildings were found – a house, a "farm", and a small structure. Archaeologists say that farmers lived on this site, whose genetic code coincides with the code of peoples which inhabited the lands near the Black Sea at the same time. These are the ancestors of modern Europeans, including Russians, Belarusians, Estonians."¹³

In Riigi (Riigiküla), near to Narova estuary, the 7,000-year-old human sites have been found. "Given the location, the nature of the finds, and the fact that more than 7,000 years ago the seashore was literally a couple of hundred meters from Riigiküla, scientists suggest that the discovered settlement was once also a fishing village. At the moment, archaeologists know more than 500 ancient settlements on the territory of Estonia. The settlement in Riigiküla, according to Kriiska, is interesting because it is here that the history of local *ceramics* originates."¹⁴

¹² <https://rus.postimees.ee/4670460/pod-narvoy-nachalis-raskopki-poseleniya-kamennogo-veka>

¹³ <https://rus.delfi.ee/statia/78894218/foto-v-rezultate-raskopok-u-narva-yyesuu-sdelany-vazhnye-otkrytiya>

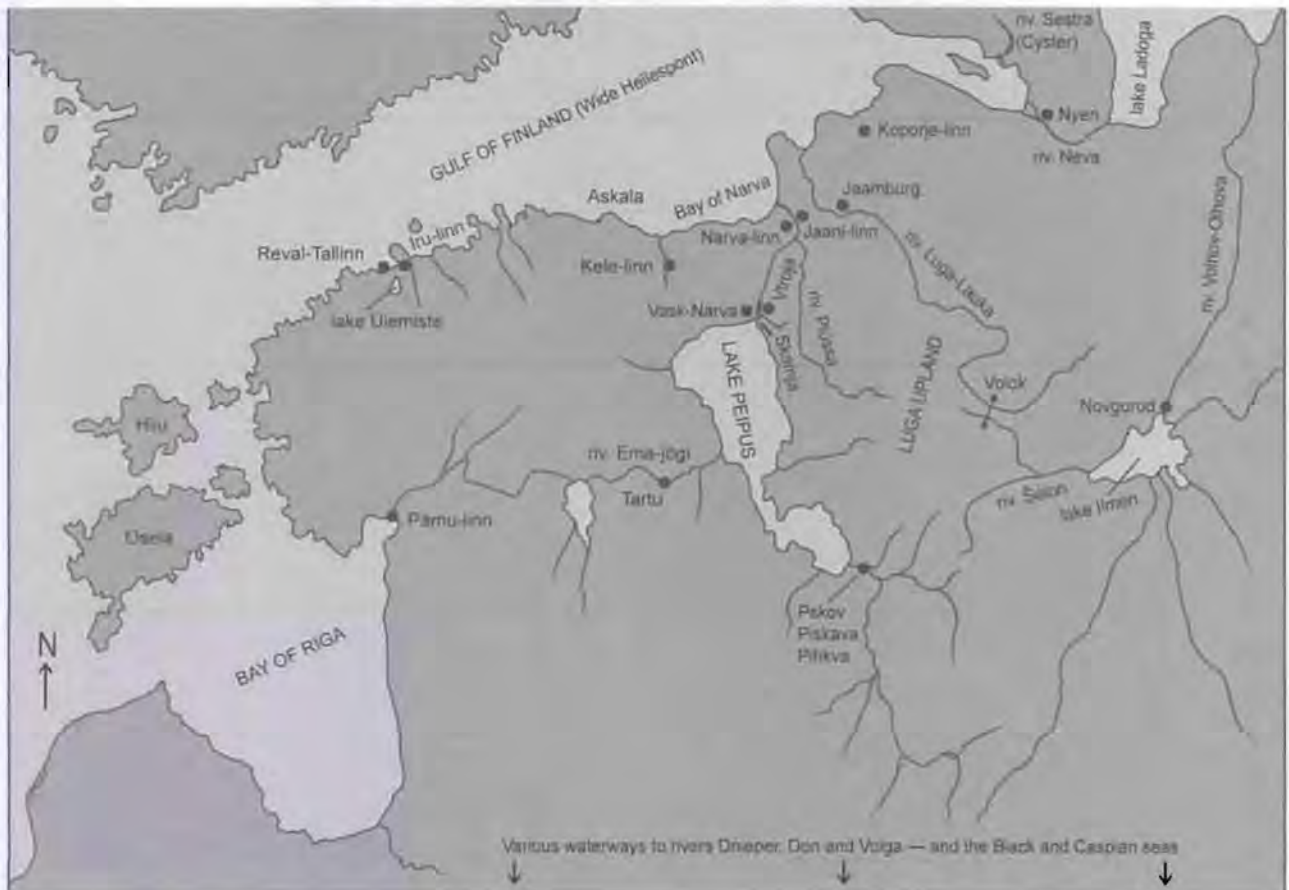
¹⁴ <https://rus.err.ee/1110593/vozte-narvy-vedutsja-masshtabnye-arheologicheskie-raskopki>

“The reason for such a dense population of these places in the Stone Age is *the presence of two large rivers, Narova and Luga, as well as the sea*. “At that time there was a lagoon system where it was easier for people to get food. It was unexpected that the ancient settlement was found not directly on the bank of the river, but at a distance from it – this indicates that the inhabitants of the settlement were also farmers,” Kriiska explained.¹⁵



¹⁵ <https://www.seti.ee/modules/news/article.php?storyid=102441>

“... The importance of the *Narva culture* is well known in archaeology. *Ceramic* production called the *Narva culture* testifies to the advanced production technology of the local population. There is also a little-known fact – in the excavations of an ancient archaeological city in Northern Italy near Rovigo, items made of Baltic amber were found, dating around 1500 BC; their processing was called *Narva processing* [by similarity with amber items found in excavations near Narova river]. In the laboratories of experimental archeology, directed by Mauro Cesaretto, this Narva processing technique was successfully used to obtain the same type of chipping that were found on amber during the archaeological excavations near Rovigo. This curious connection brings us back to **the ancient Amber Road [which branches passed through Narova and Luga].**”¹⁶



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¹⁶ Ülle Toode, Gianni Glinni. *La Bella Elena di Troia indossava l'ambra?* <https://www.italiaestonia.org/single-post/la-bella-elena-di-troia-indossava-l-ambra> ; Gianni Glinni is an Italian philologist who translated the study *Höbevalge. Sulla rotta del vento, del fuoco e dell'Ultima Thule*, by Lennart Meri, Estonian anthropologist and historian (1929-2006).