



Archaeological studies on the site of the former Cistercian grange Kolga

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INTRODUCTION

According to written sources a grange of a medieval Cistercian monastery of Roma existed in the sparsely populated eastern part of the historic district Harjumaa, in a place called Kolga (Germ. *Kolk*), where a private manor was situated in the Early Modern period. During the last centuries nothing of the buildings of the medieval grange has existed above ground and there is a long historiography of discussion about the location and architecture of the complex. After recent fieldwork some things are a bit clearer.

The present article introduces the results of fieldwork in the historic manor centre of Kolga in the seasons 2015 and 2016 (Fig. 1). The results have been briefly introduced in Estonian language (Kadakas 2016a; 2016b). The fieldwork took place partly in connection with the plans of the present owner to reconstruct the park area, partly initiated by the academic goal to specify the location and extent of the building remains of the medieval grange. Simultaneously the fieldwork was also a part of a practice course of buildings archaeology for BA students of cultural heritage and conservation (Estonian Academy of Arts).

BUILDINGS OF MEDIEVAL GRANGES IN ESTONIA

According to written sources the few Cistercian monasteries and nunneries on the territory of Estonia had some granges as well. No medieval grange building survives today even as a considerable ruin. The historic region of Harjumaa (Germ. *Harrien*) had the shape of a triangle and all the three corners of this triangle are still covered with large forested and swampy areas with little arable land and sparse population. All these three ‘corners’ were granted to Cistercian institutions by the Danish crown in the 13th century already: the eastern corner to the monastery of Roma on Gotland, the western corner to the monastery of Daugavgrīva (Germ. *Dünamünde*) near Rīga in present Latvia, and the southern ‘corner’ to the nunnery of Tallinn (Johansen 1933, 784).

According to building historian Kaur Altkoa there probably was a grange of Daugavgrīva monastery somewhere on the site of the later Padise (Germ. *Padis*) monastery in the second half of the 13th century (Altkoa 2001, 15). Remains of the oldest building of the site under the later western range have been linked with this hypothetical grange phase with caution (Kadakas 2012, 66). The Cistercian nunnery of Tallinn had a grange in Kuimetsa (Germ. *Kuimetz*), serving as the centre of its land estate. Some walls of the basement storey of the

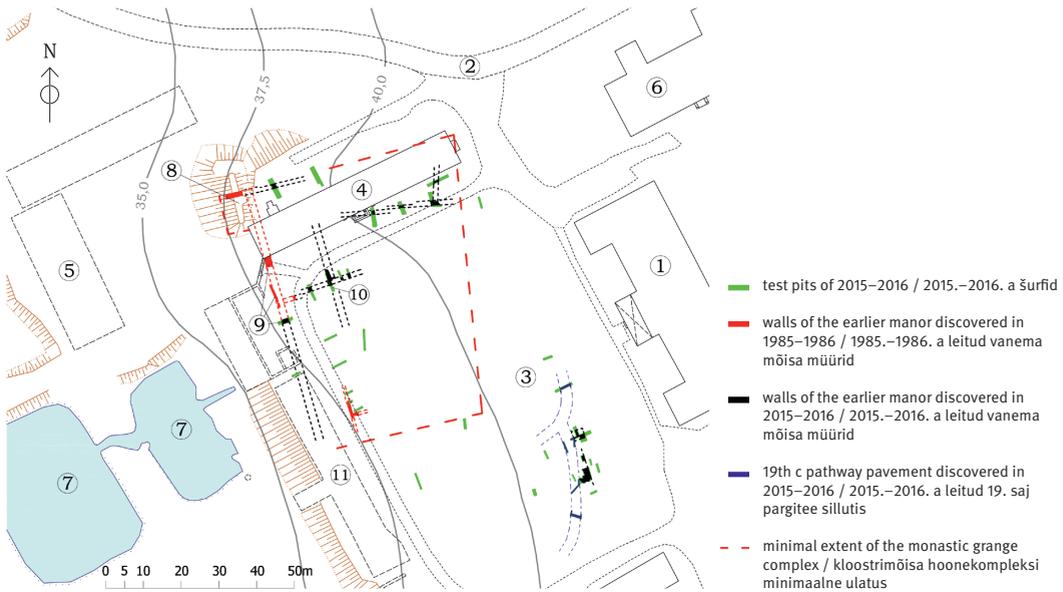


Fig. 1. Plan of Kolga manor centre. Plan of walls discovered during fieldwork. 1 – existing mansion, 2 – road, 3 – main square, 4 – former cattle barn, 5 – former distillery, 6 – Kolga museum, former steward’s house, 7 – ponds, 8 – two-room cellar, 9 – supposed western curtain wall, 10 – discovered cellar with a collapsed tiled stove, 11 – former coach washing pond.

Jn 1. Kolga mõisasüda. Välitöödel leitud müüride plaan. 1 – praegune mõisahäärber, 2 – maantee, 3 – auring, 4 – endine karjalaut, 5 – endine viinavabrik, 6 – Kolga muuseum, endine valitsejamaaja, 7 – tiigid, 8 – kaheruumiline kelder, 9 – oletatav lääneringmüür, 10 – avastatud kelder varisenud kahhelahjuga, 11 – endine tõllapesu tiik.

Drawing / Joonis: Villu Kadakas

grange building have preserved inside a low artificial knoll in the later manor park. According to some early 19th century drawings the building has been reconstructed as a fortified rectangular tower house with a basement, two stories above ground, and a crenellated battlement with corner turrets (Tuulse 1942, 288). This fortified house (ca. 17 × 30 m) also had a round cannon tower (outside \varnothing ca. 9 m) built on one corner (Kadakas 2009, 169).

Outside historic Harjumaa building remains have been connected with a Cistercian grange only in one case. The nunnery of Lihula (Germ. *Leal*) probably had a grange to manage the nearby land estate in Kloostri (Germ. *Klosterhof*). Remains of a medieval building may be located inside the ruin of the early modern manor house (Tuulse 1942, 287), but this has not been proved.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF KOLGA MANOR

Most of the territory of Kuusalu parish, the eastern end of the historic province of Harjumaa, is still a sparsely populated woodland area. Most of it, including the surroundings of Kolga, belonged in the Middle Ages to the Cistercian Abbey of Roma, situated on Gotland across the Baltic Sea. Although there is no data about the grange from the 13th century, the later Kolga manor acted as the centre of the overseas land estate – a grange of the abbey. The abbey traded the land estate just some years before Reformation, in 1519 with the king Christian II of Denmark for another land estate situated on Gotland (Johansen 1933, 253, 368, 784–785; see also Markus 2009, 17–22).

During the following decades, until the Livonian War, Kolga was the land estate of the Danish King inside the territory of the Livonian branch of the Teutonic Order, which caused many problems, as the king enfeoffed Kolga for short periods to different persons between 1528 and 1551 (Johansen 1933, 368). By the beginning of the Livonian War, the Danish king Christian III had enfeoffed Kolga manor to Christoffer van Monnickhusen, brother of the last Bishop of the Bishoprics of Saare-Lääne and Kurland. He also acted as a political representative of the Danish crown. In the name of Christian III he took over the castle of Tallinn from the last commander (Germ. *Komtur*) of Livonian Order on 26 July 1558 and kept it for about half a year (Renner 1876, 205). Shortly thereafter, in August 1558 the whole province of Virumaa was conquered by the Russian troops. Thereafter, Monnickhusen was not able to enjoy his estate for long: in August 1558, after an unsuccessful raid to Tallinn, the retreating Russian troops burnt Kolga manor (... *branden de fiende den hoff tom Kolcke af* ...), captured a steward called Wrangel and a lot of peasants (Renner 1876, 208).

In 1581 the Swedish forces conquered the manor centre from the Russians and the land estate was enfeoffed to Pontus de la Gardie (1520–1585), the supreme commander of the Swedish forces in Finland and Estonia (Genealogisches Handbuch 1930b, 56). The building complex was probably for the last time destroyed in 1602 during a plunder by Polish forces (Karling 1938, 4). In the first half of the 17th century Kolga manor belonged to the son of Pontus de la Gardie, Jacob (1583–1652), Governor General of Livonia (Johansen 1927, 10). After the marriage of his daughter Christina Catharina to Gustav Otto von Stenbock (1614–1685), Swedish military commander and politician (Genealogisches Handbuch 1930a, 199), the manor remained for centuries with this influential family, functioning as one of the largest land estates of the province (Johansen 1933, 369).

ENGRAVING BY GOETEERIS AND PREVIOUS INTERPRETATIONS

An engraving of the ruins of Kolga manor exists from 1615 and has long served as the primary and only visual source regarding the buildings of the Cistercian grange (Fig. 2). It was made by Anthonis Goeteeris, a paymaster of a Dutch diplomatic mission on the way from Tallinn to Russia. Goeteeris kept a diary on the way and published it in 1619 with several copper engravings, which he had made on the way (Goeteeris 1619; Johansen 1927, 3–4).

In September 1615 Goeteeris depicted burnt ruins of a large stone building in Kolga manor. He also noted a markedly high chimney which had remained from another building (Goeteeris 1619, 10–11; Johansen 1927, 10, 15; Fig. 2). No medieval documents shed any light on the architecture of the building complex. One can get some idea of it based on an inventory, which was made in 1586 after the death of Pontus de la Gardie. It lists a fortified house, a room for a bakery, a room above the gate, cellars, and separate buildings for a brewery, a granary, a dwelling shed, a cattle shed, a cattle yard and stables (Karling 1938, 4).

It is thought that the ruins were probably demolished to acquire building material for the new building complex already during the 17th century. In 1626 building a new house



Fig. 2. Kolga manor in 1615. Copper engraving by Anthonis Goeteeris (Goeteeris 1619, 10–11).

Jn 2. Kolga mõis 1615. aastal. Vaselõige. Autor Anthonis Goeteeris (Goeteeris 1619, 10–11).

was commissioned from a master builder Zacharias Hoffmann, but ten years later demolition of some foundations and walls was ordered (Karling 1938, 5–6).

Based on this engraving Paul Johansen concluded that the ruin of the large stone building comes from the period of the monastic grange, which was built as a conventual building (Johansen 1927, 10). Later researchers have rejected his suggestion of a conventual building, as there was no need for a regular monastic building complex in a grange (Tuulse 1942, 287–288; Kangilaski 1981, 62–63). All researchers have agreed that the building must have been fortified. On the basis of the engraving Armin Tuulse supposed that it was a towerlike high building (Tuulse 1942, 287–288). According to Tuulse it was in the later firearms period provided with a round corner tower; also that there were smaller stone buildings around the main one, represented by a building with a *dansker*, depicted on the foreground of the engraving (Tuulse 1942, 287–288). Villem Raam has supposed that the main building had three stories with two rooms each; he also identified a thick round cannon tower on the right side of the engraving (Raam 1988, 104).

Based on the engraving and general context, various dates have been suggested for the main building. Helmi Üprus has supposed that the main building probably dated from the turn of the 15th century (Üprus 1956, 7). Raam has supposed that the main building was probably built in the 14th century already as the first stone building, but the thick round cannon tower might have been built even by the Russian troops during the Livonian War (Raam 1988, 104).

PREVIOUS SEARCH FOR THE GRANGE BUILDINGS

During the last century nothing of the medieval building complex has been preserved above ground. All researchers have agreed that it has been located somewhere near the existing, early modern manor buildings, but its exact location has been a matter of debate, asserted



Fig. 3. Map of Kolga manor in 1880. Detail with the manor centre. 1 – area of grange walls, 2 – protected ruin on Tondimägi hill, 3 – early modern mansion, 4 – historic bridge on River Kolga.

Jn 3. Kolga mõisa kaart 1880. aastast. Detail mõisa südamega. 1 – leitud kloostrimõisa müüride ala, 2 – kaitsealune vare Tondimäel, 3 – varauusaegne mõisahäärber, 4 – ajalooline sild Kolga jõel.

(EAA.3724.4.111.)

with very few facts. Different locations have been suggested. Johansen supposed that the medieval main building was located in the western part of the later manor park, at the site of a small ruin inside a low, ca. 2 m high artificial knoll, called Tondimägi ('hill of a ghost'; Fig. 3: 2) (Johansen 1933, 369). The small ruin of a ca. 10 m wide square building with thin walls (ca. 1 m), on top of the knoll has been a protected monument under the name of 'remains of Kolga monastery' (reg. no. 2852) from the middle of the 20th century. Tuulse, Üprus and Epp Kangilaski have avoided the issue of location. Raam has supposed that the ruin on Tondimägi hill does not come from the main building, but from a larger auxiliary one (Raam 1988, 104).

The first archaeological fieldwork in Kolga manor was done in 1985 and 1986 by Kalle Lange who was called to document a trench (Fig. 1), which had been dug for installing heating pipes (Lange 1985; 1986).

At the same time he made a test pit on Tondimägi hill and concluded that the small ruin dated rather from the Early Modern period and was a part of the park complex (Lange 1986, 7–8). The opinion has been later accepted also by specialists of early modern manor architecture (e.g. Hein 2016, 35).

The trench for the heating pipes was located in the north-western corner of the main square between the early modern mansion and the park. He recorded remains of several limestone walls or foundations and a cultural layer. Lange noticed that all the discovered walls were oriented at a slightly different angle (*ca.* 15°) compared to the buildings of the existing early modern manor complex and concluded that these must come from a previous building complex. He also noticed that only one existing building – a semi-underground cellar, located *ca.* 20 m north-west from the pipe trench (Fig. 1: 4) had the same orientation as the discovered walls. He concluded that parts of the cellar together with the walls discovered in the pipe trench should belong to a large building (Lange 1986, 6–7). Unfortunately Lange's results remained unpublished and are largely unknown. The few later monitoring works have not provided any new data about the medieval building complex.

Without knowledge of the results of Lange, a small-scale fieldwork was organized in 1998, with the aim to locate the remains of the medieval grange. A test pit was dug on the Tondimägi hill which confirmed Lange's results that there is no reason to consider this ruin to be medieval. Some small test pits were made in different parts of the early modern manor complex from where only a few 19th century artefacts were obtained.¹

In 2000 a research and maintenance program for of the manor park was commissioned by the owner of the manor from Jimmy Norman (Sweden). It also included fieldwork during which remains of some destroyed structures of the 18th and 19th century park, e.g. a pavilion and paved pathways were located, uncovered and recorded (Norman 2000).

There has been a lot of talk among the enthusiasts of Kolga manor history that some basement rooms of the existing 18th and 19th century manor buildings come from the medieval grange. Therefore before the fieldwork of 2015 the accessible cellars² were inspected. None of these showed any signs of earlier origin than the 17th or 18th century. Some walls between the cellars of manor buildings are very thick, but this was probably a result of lining masonry attached to the original walls to support the barrel vaults.

In conclusion, before the fieldwork of 2015 it was clear that there is reason to search for the remains of the medieval grange in the north-western part of the main square, and to start from locating once again the walls recorded 30 years ago by Lange.

FIELDWORK OF 2015–2016

Walls in the NW-part of the main square

The fieldwork of both years started with a short survey with ground penetrating radar (GPR)³, with a hope to locate some solid walls. Several tests with GPR provided rather clear signals that could be interpreted as walls, which were later really discovered with targeted test pits. Several signals reflected natural formations, and several gave misleading information, caused mostly by 20th century structures and disturbances, also tree roots.

¹ A joint project of the National Heritage Board of Estonia and the University of Gotland: 'Roma-Kolk: A Cultural Exchange Across the Baltic Sea over 1000 Years'. The University of Gotland was represented by archaeologists Olle Hoffmann and Cathrine Sjölund (E-mail to V. Kadakas in 17.12.2014 from Urve Russow who was the organizer of the Estonian side of the project).

² There may be more uninspected rooms under the mansion, to where an access was closed during the Soviet period.

³ Kaarel Orviku, Phd and Hannes Tõnisson, Phd (Institute of Ecology, Tallinn University).

In 2015, 14 pits were dug (Fig. 1) to locate the walls recorded by Lange and an extra wall near the northern edge of the main square, indicated by very clear GPR signals. While digging the first pit it became clear that the area is covered by a 1–2 m thick layer of demolition debris.⁴ Therefore an excavator was used to remove it.

A very thick wall (*ca.* 2.06 m), running in the north-south direction (Fig. 1: 9)⁵, had been recorded by Lange next to the south-western corner of a former cattle barn (Fig. 1: 4). Due to its extraordinary thickness Lange interpreted it as a defensive wall (Lange 1985, 5). An extension of this wall was discovered in 2015 *ca.* 15 m south of it (1.9 m thick). Considering its extraordinary thickness and location next to the slope, it could have been the western curtain wall of the complex. At the same time it could also have functioned as the western wall of the main building.



Fig. 4. Crossing walls in the north-western part of the main square.

Jn 4. Ristuvad müürid auringi loodeosas.
Photo / Foto: Villu Kadakas

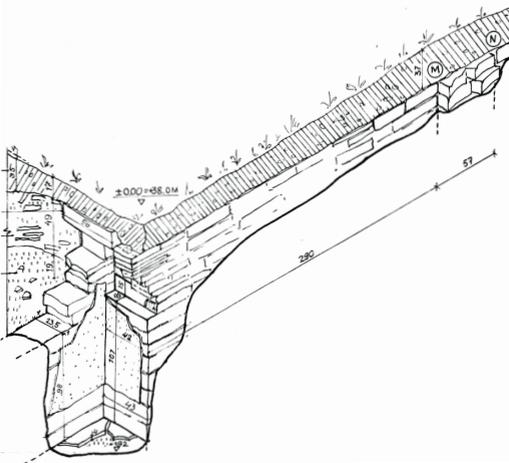


Fig. 5. A wall discovered in 1986 near the former coach washing pond, with remains of a partition wall, a niche and a limestone floor.

Jn 5. 1986. aastal endise töllapesu tiigi lähedalt leitud müür vaheseina, niši ja paepõranda jäänusega.
Drawing / Joonis: Epp Laur (Lange 1986, fig. 5)

From this thick wall a somewhat slimmer limestone wall running eastward (*ca.* 1.2 m) had been identified by Lange (1985, 5). Its extension towards east was discovered in 2015 in four test pits. In one of the pits, another wall extending towards north was discovered (Figs 1; 4). Traces of its demolished extension towards south were also recorded. Right south of this east-west wall a 2.5 m deep cellar room with a floor of dressed limestone slabs was discovered. Collapse debris of a black-glazed tile oven was discovered on this floor (see below). Probably an entire tiled stove had collapsed from the main storey into the cellar together with the intermediate floor(s). A small part of the oven debris was excavated.

In 1986 Lange identified a *ca.* 3 m long fragment of another wall of undetermined thickness, running in the north-south direction and located *ca.* 30 m south-east from the above described walls (Figs 1; 5). On its southern end Lange identified remains of a narrow (*ca.* 0.6 m) intermediate wall, extending towards west. On its northern end he found a 43 cm deep wide niche. A floor of limestone slabs was recorded *ca.* 1.9 m deep from the ground level. Lange identified that a group of rooms had been located on the western side of this main wall, near the later

⁴ This is probably the main reason why previous attempts to locate the ruin with hand-dug pits have failed.

⁵ Although the medieval building complex is not oriented exactly according to the cardinal directions (shifted by *ca.* 15°), this article refers to its discovered walls as the closest cardinal directions for the sake of clarity.

coach washing pond (Lange 1986, 7; Fig. 1: 11). In 2015 several unsuccessful attempts were made in this area to rediscover this wall or its possible extensions.⁶

In 2015 near the northern edge of the square another wall, running in the east-west direction was discovered in three test pits according to the GPR signals (Figs 1; 6). On the southern side of this wall remains of a limestone pavement, and on the northern side remains of a floor of unworked limestone slabs was discovered. This indicates that probably an open area was situated right south of the wall, whereas an interior room (or row of rooms) was on the northern side. To be exact, the wall consisted of separate sections of walls, which ran in parallel, but were positioned slightly offset from each other, and had a different thickness (0.7–1.4 m). It could have been a row of façades of separate buildings, being built next to each other, probably not during one building phase. Another wall – possibly a side wall of such buildings, positioned at right angles to the main wall was discovered a year later.

Possibly this row of east-west walls continued further to the east, even until the early modern mansion. In the middle of the 1990s, while digging a trench for a cable in front of the door in the northern wall of the mansion, an earlier wall was noticed, running possibly in the east-west direction as well.⁷ A continuation of such a hypothetical wall was searched for with GPR in 2015. Only one test pit was dug on this line⁸: it appeared that at least in the pit there has been no such wall.

Search for the extent of the grange in the South and East

After the fieldwork of 2015 the extent of the supposed building complex of the grange seemed to be more or less clear in the west, where a 1.9–2.1 m thick wall, running along the natural slope in the north-south direction, had been identified. Therefore the fieldwork of 2016 concentrated on identifying the extent of the building complex in the other three cardinal directions, preferably by finding the corresponding curtain walls. Unfortunately most of the GPR signals in the southern and eastern part of the main square proved to result from natural formations of gravel, not by remains of man-made

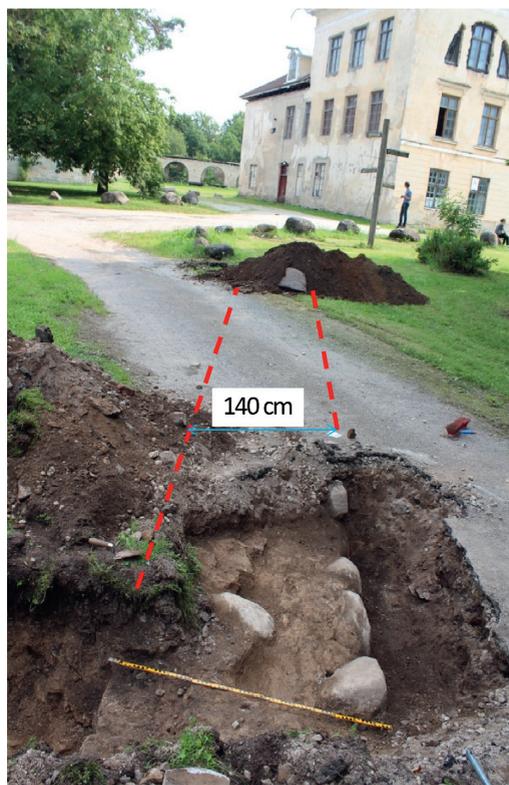


Fig. 6. Wall of the grange in the northern edge of the main square. North-western corner of the existing mansion in the background.

Jn 6. Kloostrimõisa müür auringi põhjaosas. Tagaplaanil mõisa peahoone loodenurk.

Drawing / Foto: Villu Kadakas

⁶ The attempts failed probably because of extensive 20th century disturbances and large tree roots.

⁷ The wall was noticed by architect Raul Vaiksoo and historian Ott Sandrak, who accidentally were present at the dig. By the time they had brought a camera and measuring equipment, the trench had been closed already (personal communication from R. Vaiksoo to V. Kadakas in 06.08.2015).

⁸ Most of the area between the cattle barn and the mansion was not available for digging because of functioning pipelines and power cables.

structures. In most cases even nothing but topsoil could be identified above natural gravel in the test pits.

Only in the south-eastern part of the main square two structures with a cultural layer were identified, following a similar orientation as the walls discovered before. One of these was a rectangular platform (*ca.* 2.6 × 3.0 m), made of a single layer of thick limestone slabs, laid on natural gravel without mortar. Another one, located *ca.* 8 m further south, was a shallow foundation laid of some layers of both rocks and limestone with lime mortar. Only in the east it had a straight edge, in the other directions the surfaces were broken. Therefore it is not clear if it was once a foundation for a wall of a building or a foundation for a simpler structure. If it was a building, the contemporary ground level around it or its interior floor level was not much deeper than the present topsoil. There was a lot of household material from the 17th and 18th centuries (see subchapter ‘finds’ below) in the cultural layer around and on top of these two discovered structures, providing an implicit indication of the date of these as well. It should be kept in mind that probably not every structure, which has an orientation similar to the grange building complex, comes from the grange period. Probably new buildings and smaller structures were added according to the old orientation throughout the 16th and early 17th century. Even if these two structures come from the monastic period, they have not been part of the main house, but ancillary buildings at best.

The extent of the grange complex in the south and east remains unclear. Neither proper walls nor any cultural layer were discovered in the test pits. Therefore, it is also unclear, if the grange complex was surrounded by a curtain wall at all, or has it been demolished beyond easily detectable traces or was it searched for in a wrong area.

In several pits in the south-eastern part of the main square a pavement of small limestone slabs laid upright was discovered. A row of upright slabs marks the edges of the pavement. It appeared that the discovered pavement elements formed some kind of a network of stone paved paths. After comparison with historic plans of the manor centre, it was clear that the discovered network of pathways corresponds to the ones depicted on a plan from 1880 (EAA.3724.4.111, sheet 70). Probably some elements of this pathway network were recorded in 2000 already (Norman 2000, 28–29). Thus, these elements could be easily excluded from a list of possible structures from the monastic grange period. However, it is a significant discovery regarding garden archaeology, which is not yet an established research field in Estonia.

Search for the extent of the grange in the North

The possible northern curtain wall was searched for in 2016 north of the early modern cattle barn building. Like the single existing structure that has the same orientation with the supposed grange walls, the two-room cellar building (Fig. 1: 8) had caught the attention of Lange. A brief visual survey of the cellar rooms in 2015 had given an indication that it had been built in at least two building phases. Both rooms are covered with large early modern barrel vaults. To support the vaults most of the original wall surfaces had been covered with secondary lining masonry. Of the earlier walls only the wall between the two rooms could be observed on a large scale. Its orientation and location enabled to present a hypothesis that originally it might have been part of the northern curtain wall of the grange complex. Its possible extension towards east was well indicated by GPR in several spots, but it was discovered only in

one test pit 6 m east of the cellar.⁹ The discovered wall was *ca.* 1.2 m thick. Compared to the wall on the western edge of the complex (1.9–2.1 m), this one was rather thin. Therefore it is not clear if the discovered wall functioned as the northern curtain wall of the grange complex or if the complex extended even further north.

FINDS

The assemblage collected during the two seasons of fieldwork comprised of *ca.* 170 fragments of artefacts, of which the greatest share (109 sherds altogether) belongs to stove tiles. Other finds include pieces of domestic pottery, mainly Early Modern period glazed redware (tripods, slipware dishes), Dutch faience, a piece of late 17th century Westerwald stoneware, few examples of metal finds such as a Swedish copper coin (1/6 öre, the date is illegible), a copper alloy belt-mount, an iron bullet and 2 wrought iron nails. Presently, only the collection of stove tiles deserves closer introduction for the current overview.

A survey of the stove tiles indicates that we are handling here remains of at least three tiled stoves. The earliest one of these (Stove 1) might belong the mid-16th century or an even slightly earlier period and is perhaps represented with two fragments (Fig. 7: 1–2), however, both are stray finds and too small to give a more detailed opinion.



Fig. 7. A selection of stove tile fragments.

Jn 7. Valik ahjukahlite katkeid.

(AI 7742: 2, 111, 46, 49, 159, 43, 58, 59, 64, 41.)

Photo / Foto: Erki Russow

⁹ It appeared that on the northern side of the former cattle barn, on top of the demolition debris of the old manor complex an additional layer of soil has been brought during the Soviet period. Therefore, even in the single pit where the wall was discovered, it was not possible to dig through the debris down to the original ground or floor levels.

The second set of finds originated from a slightly later heater (Stove 2). The majority of these sherds (72 fragments) were found together on the bottom of the basement from the debris of the former tiled stove (see above; Fig. 1: 10). Based on the collected samples it can be said that the stove was built of black glazed tiles with various motifs. The relative variability of decoration lets us reconstruct it with a geometrically arranged floral pattern possibly on the lower zone and with images of rulers on the upper zone of the stove (Fig. 7: 3–5, 8). The latter examples also give us a vague possibility to estimate the probable erection time of the tiled stove, however a more thorough investigation on the images is needed in the future.

At the moment, it seems plausible that the surviving images of persons belong to the series of Mecklenburg rulers, dating from the early 17th century. However, the high fragmentation of the finds makes it relatively difficult to identify the individuals depicted. Still, a few surviving elements (corner decoration, hairstyle, clothing, jewels, *etc.*) give some clues. Comparison of Kolga finds with relevant stove tiles from southern Baltic, notably from towns of Mecklenburg (see Döry & Mulsow 2006; Kaute & Schäfer 2016 among others), it appears that at least two historical persons might be recognizable. One female (Fig. 7: 3) should portray duchess Margarethe Elisabeth of Mecklenburg-Güstrow (1584–1616; see Döry & Mulsow 2006, Abb. 5), and the male (Fig. 7: 5) could be her husband Johann Albrecht II of Mecklenburg-Güstrow (1590–1636; see Döry & Mulsow 2006, Abb. 26). Some other sovereigns from the same region are also not excluded (duchess Anna Sophia, duke Adolf Friedrich I), but the size of the sherds does not allow to draw definite conclusions. Considering the social, cultural and economic ties between the Northern Germany and Estonia under Swedish rule it is not surprising to see these figures in a material environment of a Swedish noble family of the early 17th century. Perhaps duchess Margarethe Elisabeth, daughter of duke Christoph of Mecklenburg-Gadebusch and princess Elisabeth of Sweden, who spent her childhood and adolescence – until marrying Johann Albrecht II in 1608 – in Stockholm (Döry & Mulsow 2006, 61) deserve special highlighting here.

The find context and tiles themselves do not give firm data about the building time of the stove. This can be defined only vaguely, through the dating of the original matrices of the stove tiles. Through the extrapolation the year 1611 has been suggested for the production of these images (Döry & Mulsow 2006, 58–59), and only recently confirmed by new excavation information (Kaute & Schäfer 2016, 182). Thus Stove 2 at Kolga manor should be dated later than 1611. Another aspect to highlight here is the quality of the impressions: in most cases the decoration pressed onto the tiles is slightly blurred, thus perhaps indicating the use of secondary matrices and not the original ones. If this assumption is true then we have to take into consideration an additional time lag between the production of original matrices and the making of the Kolga tiles. This is really hard to calculate leaving thus the archaeological dating of the tiled stove by and large open. Here, the building and the acquisition history of the Kolga property might help further with the interpretation of the discussed find complex. One thing is sure: this tile oven has been built in the period of Jakob de la Gardie (1583–1652).

Beside the above mentioned stoves a few other stove tiles belong to the Kolga collection. These are from a slightly later period and are from undecorated stoves (Stoves 3–4) covered with black and white glazed tiles, but the number of finds (2) and the size of the fragments is too small to give more close interpretation of the stoves.

No household finds which could be linked to the monastic grange period were obtained. This is so probably because only park topsoil, demolition and collapse debris was excavated. A few small fragments of dressed limestone details – probably of door and window jambs of the grange – were found (Fig. 8).

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE MEDIEVAL GRANGE BUILDINGS

The fieldwork of 2015 and 2016 confirms the results of Lange from 1986: there have been stone buildings from an older manor complex, located in the area of the north-western corner of the main square. The building remains are situated in a rather large area, extending at least 70 m in the north-south and at least 60 m in the east-west direction, and cover an area over 4000 m². This obviously surpasses at least most of the private medieval manors, recorded in medieval Estonia, but is expectable in case of a Cistercian grange. It is obvious that all the walls which were discovered in such a large area did not belong to a single large building, but several smaller ones with courtyards in between. Although no medieval artefacts were obtained and the limestone walls are rather difficult to date, regarding the general context it is probable that at least most of the discovered walls date back to the monastic grange period. Obviously some built elements could have been added or restored during the 16th and early 17th centuries.

Only fragments of some walls were opened which makes the reconstruction of the plan of the grange, even localization of its main building depicted by Goeteeris almost impossible in the present state of research. However, continuity of some walls in a long extent could be proven in some cases which gives some hints to the location and orientation of some major building parts. The 1.9–2.1 m thick wall in the north-south direction was obviously the western curtain wall of the complex. Probably some buildings were constructed next to it, possibly even the main building, the fortified house, the ruins of which were depicted in 1615 by Goeteeris. In such a case the western curtain wall could have functioned as the western wall of the fortified house as well.

Another group of houses was probably situated under the eastern part the early modern cattle barn. Only here information of a courtyard pavement was obtained: it was situated south of the east-west directional wall. Behind it several smaller buildings existed and were probably attached to the northern curtain wall of the complex, using it as their back wall. Development of the building complex during a longer period and several phases is indicated by the somewhat different orientation angle (*ca.* 15°) of these buildings, compared to the walls discovered in the north-western corner of the main square.

There has been a lively discussion lately among the enthusiasts of the history of Kolga manor regarding the position and direction of view of Goeteeris while preparing the engraving (e.g. Tähemaa 2015, 16–17). This is an important issue from the point of reconstructing

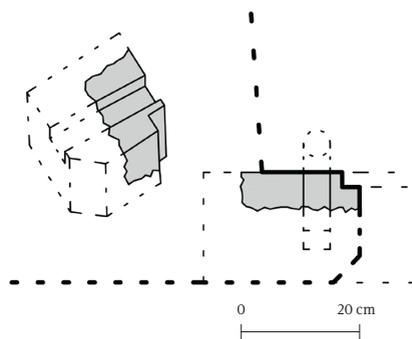


Fig. 8. Reconstruction of a dressed limestone portal or window detail based on a discovered fragment.

Jn 8. Paekivist tahatud portaali või akna piida detail, rekonstruktsioon leitud fragmendil põhjal.

(AI 7742: 169.)

Drawing / Joonis: Villu Kadakas



Fig. 9. Attempt to localize the ruin depicted in 1615 by Goeteeris in the landscape of 2017. View on the former cattle barn from north across the road.

Jn 9. Katse lokaliseerida Goeteerise poolt 1615. a kujutatud varemeid 2017. a maastikul. Vaade endisele karjalaudale põhja poolt üle maantee.

Photo and drawing / Foto ja joonis: Villu Kadakas

the grange buildings. Unfortunately, even after recent fieldwork it is not possible to give a conclusive answer. Nevertheless, the direction of view from the north, from across the road seems most likely¹⁰ (Fig. 9). In such a case, the sledge moving from the gate along the path to the right would have headed towards the road bridge (Fig. 3: 3). In this spot the road is slanting towards the bridge even today. The main building, the fortified house would have been located in an area of the western part of the later cattle barn, and the house with the gate and dansker in an area of the eastern part of the cattle barn. The ruined cannon tower, depicted on the right side of the main ruin, would have been situated on the spot of the later two-room cellar building. The intermediate wall of the two cellar rooms, which comes from an earlier building phase (see above), could have been e.g. a side wall of the tower. It would explain why this intermediate wall is protruding westwards from the line of the thick wall, discovered running in the north-south direction and interpreted as the western curtain wall of the grange complex. However, this interpretation of the engraving waits confirmation or correction by further fieldwork results.

The extent of the whole complex, the layout and dating of the buildings remain waiting for further fieldwork results as well. In theory, something could be supposed about the demise of the ruins, based on the collapsed remains of the tiled stove, found in the 2.5 m deep cellar (see above). If the cellar with the stove tiles was located in the fortified house which Goeteeris depicted as a ruin in 1615, there are two possibilities. Either the stove had collapsed together with the building already by 1615, or it was still to be built during a hypothetical reconstruction work, which should have happened soon after the visit of Goeteeris.

In 1636 a master builder Hans Langen was commissioned for a demolition of old walls (Karling 1938, 5–6). It is not clear from the document, if it was the old main building or

¹⁰ The idea of the direction of view of Goeteeris from the north, from across the road, was first introduced to V. Kadakas by historian Ott Sandrak, although he had a different idea of the location of the fortified house (personal communication in 10.08.2016).

another one. It is even possible that the ruined main house (or part of it) had been restored between 1615 and 1636. After the rapid career of Jacob de la Gardie probably enormous new resources were suddenly available for a totally new manorial complex, so that all the previous expenses could be ignored as obsolete trifle. He enjoyed an extraordinary career, becoming the most important man in the overseas provinces of Sweden very soon after the visit of Goeteeris (1619 Governor of Estonia, 1622 Governor General of Livonia). Subsequently he was among the top men of the whole kingdom as well (Lord High Constable 1620–1652), and got large land estates with huge income also elsewhere in Estonia (e.g. the castles of Haapsalu, Viljandi, Tarvastu and Helme with the corresponding land estates and their income) and Sweden (Genealogisches Handbuch 1930b, 56).

The conservative habit of restoring the ruins of medieval fortified houses of the manorial estates of Estonia is rather not to be expected in such extraordinary circumstances. For these reasons it is probable that all the remains of the Cistercian grange of Kolga were totally razed from the ground in 1636 or soon thereafter. The speed of demolition probably depended on how fast the stone material was needed for reuse in the new mansion and the debris for remodelling the landscape around it.

Regarding the location of the grange buildings in landscape, it can be said that it has been built on an edge of a limestone plateau, where it borders with a *ca.* 3–4 metre lower wet area of a river valley in the west. A spring is situated on this slope, only some metres west of the ruin area, which feeds the ponds of the early modern manor park even today. It is not clear if any of the water ditches or ponds come from the monastic grange period, but it is obvious, that the Cistercians of Kolga chose the location next to a spring on purpose and used its running water.¹¹ The Kolga River comes closest to the manor centre in the northwest (*ca.* 250 m) where a bridge (Fig. 3: 3) has been located at least during the Early Modern period. The bridge enabled traffic between the manor centre and its villages and a harbour site in Tsitre, situated *ca.* 6 km in the northwest. The water mill of the manor has been situated next to the river during the recent centuries. In addition, a system of some kind of water channels can also be observed much closer to the ruin area, under the former distillery building (Figs 1: 5; 3). These channels were probably fed by the same spring through the two ponds which exists today.

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¹¹ About the usage of water e.g. in Padise monastery see Kadakas 2015.

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ARHEOLOOGILISED UURINGUD TSISTERTSLASTE KOLGA KLOOSTRIMÕISA ASUKOHAS

Villu Kadakas ja Erki Russow

2015. ja 2016. aasta suvel uuriti Kolga mõisa parki, et täpsustada seal keskajal paiknenud kloostrimõisa hoonete asukohta ja ulatust (jn 1).¹² Suur osa endise Kuusalu kihelkonna maid kuulus alates 13. sajandist kuni 1519. aastani Roma tsistertslaste kloostriale, mis paiknes Ojamaal. Maavalduse keskuseks oli Kolga mõis.

Toetudes Hollandi diplomaadi Anthonis Goeteerise 1615. aasta gravüürile (jn 2), millel kujutatakse suure kivihoone põlenud varemeid, on väidetud, et mõisa hoonestusse kuulus massiivne kivihoone. Joonise järgi otsustades oli sellel eenduv torn ja hoovi ümbritsev ringmüür, millest pääses sisse danskriiga väravahoone kaudu. Mõisa põletasid Vene väed Liivi sõja alguses 1558. aasta augustis. 1581. aastal vallutasid Kolga Rootsi väed ning mõis läänistati väepealik Pontus de la Gardie'le. 17. sajandi I poolel kuulus Kolga mõis tema pojale Jakobile, Liivimaa kindralkuberneri ja riigimarssalile.

Keskaegse hoonestuse asukohta on mõisasüdametes oletatud erinevates kohtades. Ekslikult on muinsuskaitse all „Kolga kloostri säilmetena” pargi lääneosas Tondimäe nime kandnud madala künka sees paistev vare (jn 3). Ilmselt moodustas see ehitise hoopis osa hilisemast pargiansamblist. Keskaegse mõisa jäänuseid on oletatud ka mõisa hilisemas peahoones ja lähemates kõrvalhoonetes. Nende hoonete täna ligipääsetavates keldriruumides siiski märke keskaja ehitistest ei paista. Esimesena avastas Kolga keskage kloostrimõisa müürid 1985. aastal arheoloog Kalle Lange kunagise tõldade pesemise tiigi (jn 1: 11) läheduses küttetrassi ehituse käigus. Paljandus mitu paekivimüüri, mis paiknesid hilisema mõisaansambli hoonete suhtes viltu. Lange märkas, et leitud müüride suhtes on mõisa hoonetest ainsana ehitatud samas sihis kaheruumiline kelder endise lauda lääneotsa juures (jn 8). Ta järeldas, et leitud müüre tuleb koos keldriga vaadelda varem selles piirkonnas eksisteerinud suurema ehitise jäänusena. Kahjuks jäi Lange avastus vaid käsikirjalise kaevamisaruande kaante vahele ning seetõttu laiema tähelepanuta.

2015. ja 2016. aasta otsingud algasid georadariga, mille järel kaevati üksikud šurfid. 2015. aastal otsiti Lange leitud müüride pikendusi. Juba esimest šurfi kaevates selgus, et varem teada katab 1–2 m paksune varinguruse kiht, mis tuli eemaldada ekskavaatoriga. Endise lauda (jn 1: 4) edelanurga lähistel avastati kompleksi arvatav läänepoolne, 1,9 m paksune

välisringmüür (jn 1: 9), mis võis olla rajatud paeplatoo lääneseervale. Veidi ida pool leiti õhem ristuv müür, samuti sellega omakorda ristuv põhja-lõuna suunaline müür (jn 4). Ristumiskohast vahetult lõuna pool tuli 2,5 m sügavuselt välja paeplaatidest pörandaga kelder (jn 1: 10), kust leiti musta glasuuriga kahhelahju rusu. Lange poolt avastatud kõige lõunapoolsemaid müüre (jn 5) tõllapesu tiigi lähedal (jn 1: 11) ei suudetud uuesti üles leida. Endise lauda idaosast lõunapool avastati georadari andmete toetudes idalääne suunaline müür (jn 1: 6), täpsemalt erineva paksusega müüri lõikude rida. Sellest lõuna pool tuvastati hoovisillutus ning põhja pool siseruumide pörandad.

2016. aasta suvel oli eesmärk kindlaks teha hoonekompleksi ulatus lõuna-, ida- ja põhjaküljel, s.t otsiti ringmüüri. Hoolimata georadari näitudest ja mitmetest šurfidest ei õnnestunud auringi lõunaosas leida jälgi ei kapitaalsetest keskaegsetest kivimüüridest ega ka elutegevuskihist. Mitmed signaalid osutusid loodusliku pinnase moodustisteks. Jäi lahtiseks, kas kloostrimõisa oletatav ringmüür pole seda ala hõlmanud, polegi olnud kapitaalset ringmüüri, ei suudetud seda üles leida või on see hävinud ka maa-aluses osas.

Auringi kaguosas õnnestus välja puhastada kaks rajatist, mille orientatsioon ühildub varasema mõisa kompleksiga: umbes 3,0 × 2,6 m suurune, ristkülikukujuline suurtest paekividest seguta laotud platvorm ja lubiseguga laotud ebamäärase kujuga vundament. Tegemist oli arvatavasti väiksemate kõrvalehitistega, mis on püstitatud kloostrimõisa ajal või varasel uusajal, 16.–17. sajandil. Selgus, et mitmes šurfis avastatud püsti paetükkidest laotud sillutiselaadne kivipind moodustab 2,5 m laiuse pargitee, mida on kujutatud 1880. aasta plaanil (jn 3).

Põhja pool endist lauta leiti oletatav põhjapoolne ringmüür seal paikneva kaheruumilise keldri vaheseinajoonel. Müür on 1,2 m paksune, mis lääneringmüüriga võrreldes on suhteliselt õhuke ning seetõttu ei pruugi olla kompleksi ringmüür: hoonestus võis ulatuda kaugemale põhja poole.

Saadi u 170 esemeleidu, millest suurema osa (109) moodustavad ahjukahlid. Muud leiud on enamasti 17.–18. sajandi tarbekeraamika killud, põhiliselt punane glasuurkeraamika, Hollandi fajanss, 17. sajandi Westerwaldi kivikeraamilise nõu katke ja mõned metall-leiud (nt Rootsi 1/6 öör 17. sajandi II poolest, vasesulamist pannal, samuti üks väike rauast suurtükiküü).

Ahjukahlid pärinevad vähemalt kolmest ahjust, millest varasem (16. saj keskpaik või veidi varasem) on esindatud vaid mõne killuga. 72 kildu pärinevad

¹² Väliitööde tulemusi on varem eesti keeles lühidalt tutvustatud (Kadakas 2016a; 2016b).

ahjust, mille rusu leiti auringi loodeosas keldrist (jn 1: 10; 7). Osa musta glasuuriga kahlitest on kaetud taimemotiivide, teine osa valitsejate portreedega. Praeguses uurimisseisus on võimalik tuvastada, et osa kujutisi kuuluvad 17. sajandi alguse Mecklenburgi valitsejatele. Isikute tuvastamine on väikeste kildude tõttu keeruline, kuid tõenäoliselt on mõnel killul kujutatud Mecklenburg-Güstrowi hertsoginna Margarethe Elisabeth (1584–1616), mõnel tema abikaasa Johann Albrecht II (1590–1636). Arvestades tihedaid sidemeid Põhja-Eesti ja Põhja-Saksamaa vahel Rootsi valitsusajal, on nende luterlike valitsejate kujutamine ootuspärane. Ahju ehitusaja kindlaks tegemise muudab keeruliseks asjaolu, et kasutatud on sekundaarseid matriitse. Siiski saab olla kindel, et ahi paiknes mõnes peakorruse esinduslikus ruumis ning on ehitatud Jakob de la Gardie valitsusajal.

Kuna kaevati põhiliselt pargi haljastusmulda või keskaegse mõisa varingurusu, siis kloostriaegseid leide ei ole seni saadud. Leiti mõni paest raidkivi fragment (jn 8).

Väliuuringud näitavad, et Kolgas asuva hilisema barokse mõisasüdame loodeosas on keskajal tõepoolest asunud suur kivihoonete kompleks. Ehitusjäänused paiknevad suurel, umbes 70 × 60 m suurusega neljakandilisel alal, mis hõlmas vähemalt 4000 m². Sellisena ületab see kindlasti keskmise Eesti keskaegse mõisa suuruse, kuid on tsistertslaste kloostrimõisa puhul ootuspärane. Ilmselt ei ole kõik leitud ehitusjäänused ühest hoonest, vaid mitmete hoonetega kompleksist. Tõenäoliselt pärineb suurem osa leitud müüre kloostrimõisa ajast, kuigi 16.–17. sajandi jooksul jõuti üht-teist lisada. Hoonekompleksi plaani rekonstrueerimine, samuti Goeteerise kujutatud peahoone kindel lokaliseerimine on praeguses uurimisseisus võimatu. Auringi lääneservas leitud 1,9–2,1 m paksune põhja-lõuna suunaline müür võis olla kompleksi läänemüür (jn 1: 9). Selle siseküljel paiknesid ilmselt hooned, võib-olla isegi peahoone.

Teine rühm hooneid paiknes ilmselt põhja-ringmüüri vastas, endise lauda idaosa kohal. Seal leitud idalääne suunalisest müürist lõuna pool paiknes hoov.

Praeguses uurimisseisus tundub kõige tõenäolisem, et Goeteeris vaatlusmõisakompleksi põhja poolt, teiselt poolt maanteed (jn 9). Sellisel juhul paiknes kujutatud kindlustatud maja vare endise lauda lääneosa kohal ning danskriga värvahoone selle idaosa kohal. Paremalt kujutatud eenduv torn võis paikneda hilisema kaheruumilise keldri kohal. See oletus vajab kinnitamist või ümberlükkamist täiendavate väliuuringutega, samuti jääb praeguses uurimisseisus selgusetuks kompleksi ulatuse ja rajamisaja ja oluliste ehitiste arhitektuuri kindlaks tegemine.

Leitud kahhelahju ebamäärane dateering ei võimalda otsustada, kas ahi oli juba Goeteerise visiidi ajaks koos hoonega hävinud või alles ehitati järgnevat taastamistööd käigus. Kirjalikest allikatest on teada, et ehitusmeister H. Langenilt telliti 1636. aastal muu hulgas mingi vana hoone lammutamine. Jakob de la Gardie erakordne ja 1620. aastatel kiirelt kulgenud karjäär võimaldas talle tõenäoliselt külluslikud ressursid, mistõttu võidi vana kindlustatud maja 1615. aasta järel taastada, kuid kümnekond aastat hiljem juba asendada uue ja uhkemaga. Vanad varemed lammutati lõplikult uue peahoone ja kõrvalhoonete ehitusmaterjaliks tõenäoliselt juba Jakob de la Gardie ajal.

Kolga kloostrimõis oli ehitatud paekiviplatoo lääneservale, millest ida pool laiub 3–4 m madalam jõelamm, kus paikneb hilisem mõisa park. Nõlval asub allikas, mis toidab kraavide ja tiikide süsteemi. Ei ole selge, kas mõni neist pärineb kloostriperioodist, kuid on tõenäoline, et kloostrimõisa asukoht valiti allika kõrvale meelega. Mõisa veski on viimastel sajanditel olnud u 250 m loode pool kulgeva jõe ääres, kuid algselt võis see paikneda ka viinavabriku all asuvate veekanalite kohal.